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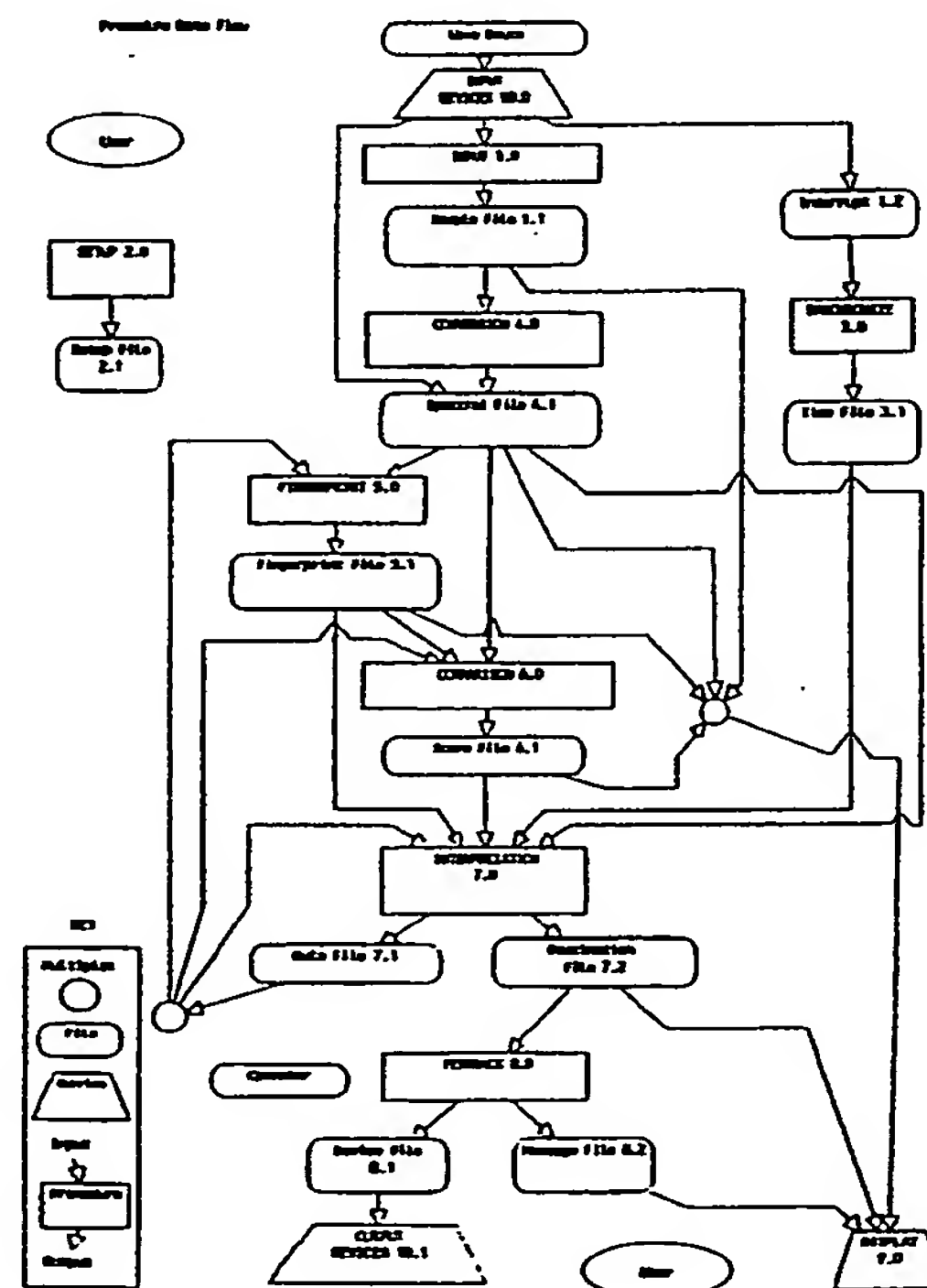
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR WAVE ANALYSIS AND EVENT RECOGNITION

(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for acquiring, recording, synchronizing, analyzing, and interpreting continuous wave data. A process for isolating separate events from wave data composed of multiple events and for determining the identification and characteristics of an event's wave source, its frequency components, amplitude, duration, and timing. A procedure for defining the parameters of the source wave and for adapting these parameters to the analysis requirements (e.g., correct frequency, amplitude, and timing divisions). A procedure for verifying interpretation results, for correcting interpretation errors, and for retaining successful results. Products of the processes, such as databases and recordings, can be made.



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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR WAVE ANALYSIS AND EVENT RECOGNITION

Computer program source code listings with labeled titles and general functional descriptions comprising sequences of instructions, routines, and the like are provided in the microfiche appendix, which is
5 incorporated herein by reference. The program listings in the microfiche appendix are directed to unobvious software utilized in practicing the preferred embodiment of the invention. This software is unique to the invention. Other software used in practicing the
10 invention is either commercially available or within the skill of practitioners in the programming arts. The microfiche appendix consists of 2 sheets of microfiche, each sheet having 70 frames, not all of which have been used.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 The invention relates to analysis of continuous wave data and, more particularly, to a method and apparatus for novel efficient transformation of complex continuous wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectral information, unique intelligent pattern
25 recognition, and novel identification of individual events contained within complex continuous wave data.

The need for recognizing and identifying individual events contained within a continuous stream of wave data arises in a broad range of technologies such as the conversion of music into an
30 interactive database of musical events, the recognition of potentially dangerous patterns in a continuous stream of wave data produced by medical monitoring devices, the recognition of specific objects in radar, sonar, laser, and other wave reflections by surveillance or navigational devices, and the like. Event recognition in this context

means, in general, the separation and identification of specific wave patterns contained in complex continuous wave data.

Waves are a fundamental means of describing the movement of energy in the physical world. A wave consists of a travelling pattern of energies which fits within a certain distance, or wavelength. The pattern described within a wavelength is a cycle, and a stationary observer perceives the arrival of a repeating wave pattern as a certain number of cycles per second, or frequency. A waveform is defined as one cycle of a wave pattern. There are no theoretical limits to the frequency of a wave pattern, although the limits of current detection apparatus range from ultra low frequency waves (0.001 Hz) to hard cosmic rays (one thousand billion billion Hz). Practitioners in the art will recognize the invention can be applied to any wavelength capable of analysis using state of the art detection and processing equipment.

It is known that a complex waveform can be completely described by its component sinewaves. Complex waves from multiple wave sources can be combined to form even more complex waves containing multiple wave events. In *Digital Filters and Signal Processing*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston, 1986, Leland Jackson describes how waves of related frequencies combine. Component sinewaves of complex waveforms add together, cancel each other, attract each other, and modify each other through interference. Yet despite this complexity of wave combinations, a wave event generated by a particular source usually maintains its own identity, even when combined with many other simultaneous complex waves. The human perception of sound is the best example of this phenomenon. An instrument, such as a flute, is easily distinguished by an average listener from a second instrument, such as a timpani, even though both instruments are played simultaneously. Such human perception of sound waves suggests that separation and identification of waves of many frequencies should be possible.

Consequently, for many years researchers have studied the perception of sound as the quintessential guide toward understanding complex wave analysis and event recognition. Considerable technology exists in the field of acoustic wave analysis, and technology related to spectral analysis and pattern recognition exists in other fields. The use of acoustic wave analysis as illustrated by the preferred embodiment

of the invention serves to demonstrate the invention is useful in many fields for spectral analysis and pattern recognition techniques. Since the complexity of acoustic patterns requires attention to a level of detail exceeding the detail required in many other fields, the
5 application of the preferred embodiment to acoustic patterns serves as a comprehensive example of the practice of the invention.

In current practices of analysis of continuous audio data an instrument playing a note is considered a wave source. The notes played by the instrument are considered the individual events. As time
10 progresses forward the notes played produce a continuous stream of complex wave data. The continuous wave data is digitally sampled at precise intervals and the resulting stream of digits is processed by a computer. Most analysis and event recognition techniques try to transform the continuous stream of sampled wave data into frequency,
15 amplitude, and time spectra before attempting any form of pattern recognition. The goals of existing pattern recognition procedures are the identification of the pitch, amplitude, and timing of the note event.

James A. Moorer describes one type of complex continuous wave data
20 analysis in his paper, "On the Segmentation and Analysis of Continuous Musical Sound by Digital Computer", CCRMA, Department of Music, Report No. STAN-M-3. Moorer uses comb filters to preprocess the music wave data and then refines the data with band-pass filters. Moorer relies on harmonic ratios for his preprocessing and pattern recognition procedures
25 and constructs linked lists of all potential notes based on occurrences of events conforming to predetermined harmonic ratios. Moorer places extreme constraints on the structure and instrumentation of the music which can be analyzed since the optimum comb step depends on predictable and stable harmonics at integer harmonic ratios. However, real music
30 rarely has predictable and stable harmonics and does not conform to the compositional constraints imposed by Moorer.

The transformation of digitally sampled data into accurate frequency, amplitude, and time spectra is a difficult and computationally intensive process that has received considerable
35 research. The nature of the difficulty lies in the fact that, for any single analysis step, the more accurate the frequency resolution

becomes, the less accurate the time resolution becomes. The reverse condition is equally true. In "The Bounded-Q Frequency Transform", CCRMA, Department of Music, Report No. STAN-M-28, Kyle L. Kashima, et al., present a method of frequency analysis called the Bounded-Q
5 Frequency Transform, which "lowpass-filters" and "sub-samples" input data and applies a Fast Fourier Transform [FFT] to the resulting data for each octave of output desired. Although the effective frequency resolution is good and the computational time is relatively low, the final results distort time to such a degree that the results are not
10 sufficiently accurate, if the timing accuracy of events is important, which it is in music and most other fields.

Other attempts to transform digitally sampled data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectra are described by Lawrence R. Rabiner, et al., in *Theory and Application of Digital Signal Processing*,
15 Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1975. The use of the FFT with a high degree of overlap is described as well as the principle of a bank of band-pass filters. Rabiner's work does not recommend a bank of band-pass filters due to the tremendous computation time required. The inherent problem with Rabiner et al's recommended FFT technique is that
20 the frequency spacing is not suited to most analysis needs since output from the FFT is linearly spaced and does not lend itself to more generalized needs.

John Chowning, et al., propose a study of continuous wave analysis and event recognition in their paper, "Intelligent Analysis of Composite
25 Acoustic Signals," CCRMA, Department of Music, Report No. STAN-M-36. They propose using "simulated real-time problem solving heuristics" to determine strategies for allocating resources and controlling feedback loops, and propose a "system learning coprocessor" for parameter adjustment and various forms of pattern recognition. The multi-rate
30 signal processing they propose is a form of the Bounded-Q Frequency Transform. Thus, the proposed system would suffer time distortion. Although this paper was only a proposal for continued funding, it does draw attention to the need for a process that can learn and retain a knowledge base of the facts learned.

35 In "Techniques for Note Identification in Polyphonic Music," CCRMA, Department of Music, Report No. STAN-M-29, Cris Chafe uses a

moving-average technique to identify the beginnings of events prior to application of the Bounded-Q Frequency Transform. Although this technique can work well for some extremely simple forms of music, it does not perform well for dense or complex music. In addition to the weakness of the Bounded-Q Frequency transform, Chafe ignores the unstable portion of the note event, thereby failing to utilize a tremendous portion of the vital data.

Clearly, new and more comprehensive method and apparatus for complex continuous wave analysis and event recognition are needed to efficiently transform sampled wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectra without substantially distorting frequency or time. The method and apparatus should evaluate all aspects of spectral data without ignoring any portion of the data, despite any instability in the data, as well as readily adapt to a broad range of frequencies, timing, and analysis needs. The invention addresses these needs and provides an efficient solution to these problems.

The major advantages of the present invention are the speed, accuracy, flexibility, and consistency of the conversion of sampled wave data to frequency, amplitude, and time spectra and the extraordinary accuracy and flexibility of its event recognition. In addition, the capacity of the present invention to be configured to meet virtually any frequency and time requirements, as well as virtually any definable recognized wave event, will enable researchers in a broad range of scientific investigation to utilize the invention effectively.

The present invention accomplishes wave analysis and event recognition with a greater degree of efficiency and accuracy than possible with any of the prior art. More specifically, by using the principles of the present invention the conversion of wave data to frequency, amplitude, and time spectra is many times faster and more accurate than by using the best of the prior art. In addition, the invention performs event recognition with a degree of accuracy and flexibility that effectively removes the restrictions imposed by the best attempts of the prior art. Furthermore, the invention is "virtual" in the sense that its frequency scales, time scales, amplitude scales, conversion procedures, pattern recognition procedures, and file structures can be configured for a variety of applications.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION
(DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION)

In accordance with the invention, there is provided a method for computer automated detection and identification of one or more events from one or more continuous streams of wave data, each event having frequency, amplitude, and time components. The method comprises the steps of transforming a continuous stream of wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectral information to minimize computational time and to optimize frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy; extracting identifying characteristics from the spectral information obtained from the continuous stream of wave data; generating and retaining a Fingerprint from the extracted identifying characteristics of a selected known event comprising a source, a time, and a fundamental frequency which are determinable by a user; comparing the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding identifying characteristics extracted from the spectral information obtained from one or more continuous streams of wave data and producing a database of sets of scores describing a level of correspondence between the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and corresponding identifying characteristics of a potential event; and selecting from the database sets of scores having a preselected level of correspondence to the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and interpreting spectral information associated with the selected sets of scores to determine the presence of a specific event, its start-time, its amplitude, and its duration.

The transforming step can comprise interpreting output of an FFT function to derive amplitudes of selected frequency components using polynomial interpolation; interpreting output of an FFT function to predict an amplitude of a selected frequency component by searching for an amplitude peak inside a calculated bin range; providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by a plurality of different length FFT's using frequency limiting; and providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by different length FFT's using amplitude averaging and amplitude clipping.

The extracting identifying characteristics step can comprise extracting amplitude-independent slopes of partials over time;

extracting amplitude-independent slopes existing between coterminous partials; extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution widths for partials; extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width settle-times for partials over time;
5 extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width forms for partials; determining a frequency position for a most prevalent amplitude peak of a partial and a relative drift of individual amplitude peaks from the most prevalent amplitude peak; and comparing an accumulated total amplitude for all of a plurality of partials for a
10 predetermined number of time positions to an accumulated total amplitude derived from an amplitude reference Fingerprint having a known amplitude level and calculating a resulting relative amplitude level.

The Fingerprint generating and retaining step can comprise generating a Fingerprint from spectral information by extracting the
15 identifying characteristics of the selected known event and retaining at least one of the identifying characteristics, and generating a Fingerprint from more than one selected known event, each having the same fundamental frequency and source, and retaining a set of identifying characteristics which represent an average of at least one
20 of the identifying characteristics.

The comparing step can comprise transposing selected frequency components of the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding frequency criteria of the spectral information; extracting at least one identifying characteristic from spectral information that
25 corresponds to at least one of the identifying characteristics selected from the Fingerprint; comparing the extracted identifying characteristics of the spectral information to the corresponding identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint; and producing a set of scores which reflects the degree of amplitude-independent
30 correspondence.

The selecting and interpreting step comprise determining the presence of a specific event, accumulating a series of scores for a fundamental frequency associated with the specific event, and analyzing a trend of the series of scores over time to determine precisely where

in time the specific event begins; further analyzing the series of scores of the specific event to determine if a separate potential event, having partials related to the partials of the specific event, exists within the time covered by the series of scores of the specific event, thereby revealing the possibility of an incorrect interpretation of the series of scores; further accumulating an amplitude for each partial of the specific event for each time location forward in time from the start of the specific event, comparing an accumulated total of the amplitudes of the partials to an amplitude total for partials of the Fingerprint, and calculating a relative amplitude for the specific event; further determining the duration of the specific event by examining the amplitude level of the specific event's partials over time to determine if and when the amplitude level falls below a minimum selected threshold; further determining the duration of the specific event by comparing the amplitude level of each partial of the specific event over time against an average of the amplitudes of the specific event taken at precedent time locations to determine whether a new event has interrupted the duration of the specific event; and further determining the duration of the specific event by testing for a drift of the amplitude peak over time to identify larger drift variations that can follow a predetermined time period of smaller drift variations, thereby indicating that a new event has interrupted the partial of the specific event.

The invention further provides for synchronizing to an external time-base the start-times associated with a plurality of specific events, comprising the steps of generating and storing a table of elapsed sample count for each of a plurality of event timing requests; calculating an event timing request count for the start-time of the specific event and indexing the elapsed sample count table with the event timing request count to retrieve an elapsed sample count; calculating a time offset between the start-time of the specific event and an event timing request time calculated from the event timing request count; using the time offset, further calculating a relative time offset from the elapsed sample count; calculating a synchronized time by adding the elapsed sample count to the relative time offset; and assigning the synchronized time to the specific event.

The invention also provides products produced by these processes, such as databases, representations, and derivatives thereof, audio and visual recordings, and the like.

The invention also provides an apparatus for computer automated
5 detection and identification of one or more events from one or more
continuous streams of wave data, each event having frequency, amplitude,
and time components. The apparatus comprises structure for transforming
a continuous stream of wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time
spectral information to minimize computational time and to optimize
10 frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy; structure for extracting
identifying characteristics from the spectral information obtained from
the continuous stream of wave data; structure for generating and
retaining a Fingerprint from the extracted identifying characteristics
of a selected known event comprising a source, a time, and a fundamental
15 frequency which are determinable by a user; structure for comparing the
identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding
identifying characteristics extracted from the spectral information
obtained from one or more continuous streams of wave data and for
producing a database of sets of scores describing a level of
20 correspondence between the identifying characteristics of the
Fingerprint and corresponding identifying characteristics of a potential
event; and structure for selecting from the database sets of scores
having a preselected level of correspondence to the identifying
characteristics of the Fingerprint and for interpreting spectral
25 information associated with the selected sets of scores to determine the
presence of a specific event, its start-time, its amplitude, and its
duration.

The wave data transforming structure can comprise means for
interpreting the output of an FFT function to derive amplitudes of
30 selected frequency components using polynomial interpolation; means for
interpreting the output of an FFT function to predict an amplitude of a
selected frequency component by searching for an amplitude peak inside a
calculated bin range; structure for providing frequency, amplitude, and
time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by a plurality
35 of different length FFT's using frequency limiting; and structure for
providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral

information produced by different length FFT's using amplitude averaging and amplitude clipping structure.

5 The identifying characteristics extracting structure can comprise structure for extracting amplitude-independent slopes of partials over time; structure for extracting amplitude-independent slopes existing between coterminous partials; structure for extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution widths for partials; structure for extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width settle-times for partials over time; structure for extracting
10 amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width forms for partials; structure for determining a frequency position for a most prevalent amplitude peak of a partial and a relative drift of individual amplitude peaks from the most prevalent amplitude peak; and structure for comparing an accumulated total amplitude for all of a plurality of
15 partials for a predetermined number of time positions to an accumulated total amplitude derived from an amplitude reference Fingerprint having a known amplitude level and structure for calculating a resulting relative amplitude level.

20 The Fingerprint generating and retaining structure can comprise structure for generating a Fingerprint from spectral information by extracting the identifying characteristics of the selected known event and retaining at least one of the identifying characteristics, and structure for generating a Fingerprint from more than one selected known event, each having the same fundamental frequency and source, and
25 structure for retaining a set of identifying characteristics which represent an average of at least one of the identifying characteristics.

The comparing structure can comprise structure for transposing selected frequency components of the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding frequency criteria of the spectral information; structure for extracting at least one identifying
5 characteristic from the spectral information that corresponds to at least one of the identifying characteristics selected from the Fingerprint; structure for comparing the extracted identifying characteristics of the spectral information to the corresponding identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint; and structure for
10 producing a set of scores which reflects the degree of amplitude-independent correspondence.

The selecting and interpreting structure can comprise structure for determining the presence of a specific event, structure for
accumulating a series of scores for a fundamental frequency associated
15 with the specific event, and structure for analyzing the trend of the series of scores over time to determine precisely where in time the specific event begins. Too, structure for further analyzing the series of scores of the specific event to determine if a separate potential event, having partials related to the partials of the specific event,
20 exists within the time covered by the series of scores of the specific event, thereby revealing the possibility of an incorrect interpretation of the series of scores; structure for accumulating an amplitude for each partial of the specific event for each time location forward in time from the start of the specific event; structure for comparing an
25 accumulated total of the amplitudes of the partials to an amplitude total for partials of the Fingerprint, and structure for calculating a relative amplitude for the specific event; structure for determining the duration of the specific event by examining the amplitude level of the specific event's partials over time to determine if and when the
30 amplitude level falls below a minimum selected threshold; structure for determining the duration of the specific event by comparing the amplitude level of each partial of the specific event over time against an average of the amplitudes of the specific event taken at precedent time locations to determine whether a new event has interrupted the
35 duration of the specific event; and structure for determining the duration of the specific event by testing for a drift of the amplitude peak over time to identify larger drift variations that can follow a predetermined time period of smaller drift variations, thereby

indicating that a new event has interrupted the partial of the specific event can also be provided.

The invention also provides for synchronizing to an external time-base. The start-times associated with a plurality of specific events.

5 The apparatus comprises structure for generating and storing a table of elapsed sample count for each of a plurality of event timing requests; structure for calculating an event timing request count for the start-time of the specific event and for indexing the elapsed sample count table with the event timing request count to retrieve an elapsed

10 sample count; structure for calculating a time offset between the start-time of the specific event and an event timing request time calculated from the event timing request count; structure for using the time offset to further calculate a relative time offset from the elapsed sample count; structure for calculating a synchronized time by adding

15 the elapsed sample count to the relative time offset; and structure for assigning the calculated synchronized time to the specific event.

The objects, advantages, novel features, and further scope of applicability of the present invention are set forth in part in the detailed description to follow, taken in conjunction with the

20 accompanying drawings, and in part will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the following, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated into and form a part of the specification, illustrate a preferred embodiment of the present invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. The drawings are only for the purpose

30 of illustrating a preferred embodiment of the invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the flow of data between procedures;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the flow of control between procedures;

Figs. 3 through 13c are block diagrams of program structure for the primary procedures. The core functions from each of the primary procedures are shown; in cases where core functions are substantially similar, one is illustrated as representative of the others; each block diagram is titled with the label of its parent procedure and includes a general functional description;

Fig. 3 CONVERSION (Generate one time strip of a Spectral File);

Fig. 4 COMPARISON (Initial database generation);

Fig. 5 COMPARISON (Time slope compare);

10 Fig. 6 COMPARISON (Frequency distribution width compare);

Fig. 7 COMPARISON (Find peak);

Fig. 8 COMPARISON (Find frequency distribution width);

Fig. 9 INTERPRETATION (Control the interpretation of scores);

Fig. 10 INTERPRETATION (Evaluate a series of scores);

15 Fig. 11 INTERPRETATION (Find the duration of an event);

Fig. 12 FINGERPRINT (Make Fingerprint);

Fig. 13A SYNCHRONIZATION (Record file, generate sync table);

Fig. 13B SYNCHRONIZATION (Event time request processing);

Fig. 13C SYNCHRONIZATION (Calc sync time from sync table); and

20 Fig. 14 APPARATUS OVERVIEW is a block diagram showing the flow of signals and data among individual apparatus components, some of which are optional, in accordance with a particular application.

Relevant program source code with labeled titles and general functional descriptions directly corresponding to the titles and

functional descriptions of the block diagrams is provided in the microfiche appendix. Steps represented in the block diagrams are labeled with a number corresponding to a Source Code Listings number. The Source Code Listings are consistent with the standard ANSI C language. The block diagrams provide overviews of process flow while the following discussion and Source Code Listings disclose in detail processes involved in the invention;

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT
 OF THE INVENTION (BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION)

To understand the operation of the invention on complex waves, the nature of the vibrating source responsible for generating the wave, as well as the receiving and filtering processes, is examined.

As a preliminary step, the signal containing the wave data is digitally sampled at a rate allowing the highest desired frequency to be represented by at least two samples. The samples are processed in small groups of contiguous samples called "time strips". Each time strip corresponds to a specific duration of time.

Before a vibrating source begins emitting waves it is at rest and must be excited by a force. A vibrating source responds to an exciting force with a unique pattern of chaotic frequencies settling toward a resonant frequency. At the start of this excitation the vibrating source is unstable and generates many frequencies for a brief time. As the excitation continues, the chaotic frequencies begin to group and emphasize a "peak" frequency. At first the peaks tend to "drift" in frequency, but they eventually settle on a resonant frequency. The duration from excitation to settle point is called the "settle time."

Normally the settle time extends across several time strips. When a time strip contains a wave which is settling, many frequencies that are distributed between frequency limits occur (these limits being defined by a low and a high frequency point). The width of this frequency distribution is referred as the "frequency distribution width". The shape of the frequency distribution width can be analyzed to produce a frequency "width form". A pattern emerges as the frequency distribution width, width form, and its associated peaks progress through multiple time strips toward a settle point.

Frequently, complex waves are composed of mathematically related sine waves, which are referred to as "partials." Partials of different frequencies share a common "fundamental" frequency (the fundamental is also considered one of the partials). Adjacent partials sharing the same fundamental are referred to as "coterminous partials". Harmonics are one example of partials. Each partial has its own settle time, frequency distribution width, width form, and peak drift. The individual partial's amplitude curve is defined as the "time slope". The amplitude relationship between coterminous partials is defined as the "frequency slope". Time slope and frequency slope provide identifying information when extracted and used in practicing the invention.

In order to analyze the digitally sampled wave the user configures the invention with a lower and upper frequency limit suitable to the wave data, and then selects appropriate filtering methods in order to divide the specified frequency range into discrete frequency steps. Each filter is centered on a specific frequency. A filter's purpose is to provide the amplitude of the filter's center frequency for a specific time strip. One or more cycles of a wave must elapse before a filter can state the amplitude of its center frequency with any certainty. From the point of time a wave enters a filter up to the point of time one cycle has elapsed, the filter output is, of course, in error and results in increased "filter uncertainty width" and incorrect amplitude values.

Filters suffer from an additional phenomenon known as "leakage." Since no filter is sufficiently narrow to separate out a single frequency from a complex wave, all filters allow some portion of the neighboring frequencies to leak through. This leakage can lead to false interpretations of a filter's output if the leakage is not calculated and the resulting error factor recognized.

In practicing the invention one takes into account the nature of vibrating sources and their resulting waves as well as the errors introduced by the receiving and filtering steps. The waves' partial ratios and amplitude slopes provide a tremendous amount of analysis data, but not enough detail to draw unequivocal conclusions about the characteristics of the vibrating source. The frequency distribution

widths, width forms, peaks, settle times, and corresponding progressions across time provide the additional data necessary for the invention to achieve its extraordinary accuracy. Since these characteristics are applicable for any frequency, the invention can be practiced utilizing
5 events comprising virtually any frequencies.

The invention extracts the location in time that an event occurs and identifies the signal source, its fundamental frequency, amplitude, and duration. In order to extract this information a wave whose attributes are known is first analyzed and stored along with its known
10 attributes as a "Fingerprint File." The invention then compares a Fingerprint of a known fundamental frequency to a source wave by transposing the Fingerprint's frequency components to match the fundamental frequency of the source wave. Frequency ratios, amplitude ratios, frequency distribution widths, width forms, peaks, and settle
15 times (i.e., "Fingerprint attributes") are taken from the Fingerprint and compared to the same attributes of the source wave. Each comparison generates a "set of scores" which is stored in a "Score File" for subsequent interpretation.

The Score File is processed through a statistical collection
20 procedure which calculates the distribution of score density patterns. From these score patterns a user selects a range of scores to be examined based on the density patterns observed.

The results of previous interpretations establish tractable rules whereby the invention "learns" how to interpret better a specific
25 progression and relationship of scores. If the invention's interpretation rules determine that an event is questionable, then it initiates a series of feedback steps so that the user may assist in the invention's learning. Once an event is identified, its duration and evolution are tracked by the invention until the event is over.

30 At any point during score generation or score scanning a pre-defined message may be sent to the user. Messages are sent based on critical threshold conditions which are selected and established by a user during Setup. These messages serve as warning flags or indicate a need for user intervention.

The invention is also directed to products produced by the processes of the invention. Such products include but are not limited to databases, representations, and derivatives thereof, audio recordings, video recordings, and the like.

5 Although the preferred embodiment is generally addressed to acoustic wave processing by way of example, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention will be useful for processing waves of virtually any frequency contemplated for analysis. The particular designs and modifications for embodiments suitable for particular
10 frequency ranges will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings of the invention. Many of the various designs used by practitioners to analyze different frequency ranges will be a matter of choice in accordance with the invention.

Fig. 1 (PROCEDURE DATA FLOW) and Fig. 2 (PROCEDURE CONTROL FLOW)
15 are block diagrams of the procedures, data files, and devices and of the subsequent flow of control information and pertinent data files. One first defines the input and output devices and configures the procedures and file structures to the appropriate values.

20 Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 INPUT DEVICES (10.0):

"INPUT DEVICES" refers to (a) the devices to digitize the source wave and to time-correlate an external high resolution clock to the sampling process and (b) the device controls used by the invention uses
25 to control the sampling process. In many applications an analog-to-digital converter discretely samples an incoming source wave at a specific rate. INPUT DEVICES are also used to time-correlate the high-resolution clock to the sampling process. Typically this device counts or reads elapsed time and generates an "event timing request"
30 used by the SYNCHRONIZE (3.0) procedures. The INPUT DEVICES are controlled by the invention's "start sampling", "stop sampling", and "inquire elapsed samples" commands.

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 INPUT (1.0):
35

"INPUT" refers to the procedures which control the recording of samples from the INPUT DEVICES. A Sample File is a continuous digital

recording of the source wave. Recording of the source wave is not always necessary since an apparatus in accordance with the invention can be configured to process previously recorded continuous wave source data.

5

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 SETUP (2.0):

The user selects the configuration parameters for SETUP in order to specify how the invention displays, processes, compares, stores, 10 verifies, and interprets the source wave and resulting files. The capabilities of the INPUT DEVICES determine the lowest and highest frequencies and amplitudes to be processed. These frequency and amplitude ranges are divided into smaller frequency and amplitude divisions by overlaying a user-defined frequency scale. The sample rate 15 of the selected input device determines the smallest division of time that can be processed. The user can select for display or for processing any division of time as small as the duration of one sample.

Most of the invention's files can be visually displayed on the DISPLAY (9.0) VDU terminal. The user controls which portions of the 20 frequency range and time divisions are displayed. All step and control parameters for all procedures are defined in SETUP (2.0) and stored in the Setup File (2.1).

Each procedure receives input or control information from a wave source, a user, or a file produced by a previous procedure. Each 25 procedure produces a file or controls the output of information from the invention.

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 CONVERSION (4.0):

"CONVERSION" refers to the production of a Spectral File (4.1) 30 from a Sample File (1.1) input. The invention can accept file input which is already in spectral form, or it can generate Spectral Files (4.1) through the use of external band-pass filters, or it can use a novel adaptation and interpretation of the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), 35 the "Interpolated FFT Filter Bank". The goal of filtering is to produce a Spectral File (4.1) with accurate frequency and time resolution for further processing. SETUP (2.0) defines the filtering process to be

used. In most cases the user selects the invention's Interpolated FFT Filter Bank since it is significantly faster and more accurate than other filtering.

5 The invention uses a relatively small number of sample points for the FFT if the frequency is high and a relatively large number of sample points for the FFT if the frequency is low. The results from these multiple FFTs are combined by a series of frequency-limiting and amplitude averaging and clipping procedures, called the "Multi-Pass Procedure". Frequency-limiting defines the optimal frequency range for
10 the different length FFTs ("length" being a measure of the number of sample points). The amplitude averaging and clipping procedures process the shorter length FFTs by averaging individual amplitudes with corresponding amplitudes from the longer length FFTs and clipping the resulting averaged amplitude so it doesn't exceed the calculated
15 amplitude levels taken from the shorter length FFTs.

An FFT produces a graph of amplitude values linearly spaced across a frequency range. Upon this linear scale the user can define and then overlay virtually any conceivable frequency scale. The individual frequencies contained in the user-defined frequency scale and the
20 individual frequencies the FFT produces are referred to as "points". The invention finds a series of FFT points which surround the desired frequency scale point and performs a curve-fit, using polynomial interpolation on these FFT points. The desired frequency point is then interpolated from the curve-fitted FFT points.

25 In the higher frequency ranges an FFT produces multiple points for each requested point in the user-defined frequency scale. The invention analyzes the number of multiple points per requested point, calculates the "bin range", a search range above and below the requested point, and scans this bin range to find a maximum amplitude peak, which is referred
30 to as the "peak-in-bin".

The final Spectral File (4.1) is passed to both the COMPARISON (6.0) and FINGERPRINT (5.0) procedures for further processing (see below).

35 Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 SYNCHRONIZE (3.0):

"SYNCHRONIZE" refers to the accurate time alignment of timing data when the invention collects and examines multiple sources of waves.

5 The invention is often required to synchronize to a common
"external time-base" the wave data that are acquired at different times
and perhaps from different locations. The external time-base is
generated from a high resolution clock generator/reader capable of
precise timing divisions. This clock generator or reader should be
capable of generating an event timing request to which the SYNCHRONIZE
10 (3.0) procedures can respond. The input sampling device should be
capable of responding to a "start" command, a "stop" command, and an
"elapsed sample inquiry" request.

15 The novel synchronization procedures begin simultaneously with the
"start" command. Upon receiving an event timing request from the INPUT
device the synchronization procedures obtain the elapsed number of
samples, "elapsed sample count", from the INPUT device and accumulate a
count of the event timing requests and associated elapsed samples in the
Time File (3.1). This file is passed to the INTERPRETATION (7.0)
procedures which index, read, and interpret timing information from the
20 Time File in order to calculate the correct timing information for the
Destination File (7.2).

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 FINGERPRINT (5.0):

25 "FINGERPRINT" refers to the generation of a known set of facts
about an event extracted from a Spectral File (4.1). The FINGERPRINT
procedures take a Spectral File of a source wave from a known
vibrational source and calculate, extract, and store (in the Fingerprint
File) the Spectral File's frequency and amplitude slope ratios, peak
30 locations, settle times, frequency distribution widths, and width forms.
The FINGERPRINT procedures calculate a Fingerprint amplitude level by
summing the individual associated partial amplitudes and then comparing
this amplitude total to the amplitude total of a previously stored
Fingerprint, the "amplitude reference Fingerprint", which has been
35 generated from a known event with a known amplitude. The Fingerprint
amplitude level and the information identifying the vibration source and
fundamental frequency are then stored in the Fingerprint File.

Once an initial Fingerprint File (5.1) is produced by the FINGERPRINT procedures the FEEDBACK (8.0) procedures automatically modify and evolve new Fingerprints based on the parameters of the initial Fingerprint File. The Fingerprint File is then passed to the
5 COMPARISON (6.0) and INTERPRET (7.0) procedures for further processing (see below).

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 COMPARISON (6.0):

10 "COMPARISON" refers to the unique evaluation of differences and similarities between the attributes of the Fingerprint File (5.1) and the Spectral File (4.1). The COMPARISON procedures yield a unique score for each attribute of the Fingerprint File.

The Spectral File (4.1) is stored as a series of time strips with
15 each strip containing the amplitudes of the defined frequency scale. COMPARISON procedures step through each of the Spectral File's frequency points and compares the spectral information to the comparable attributes stored in the Fingerprint File, and then proceed to the next time strip, repeating the process until the entire file is processed.
20 The Fingerprint File is indexed by the specific frequency point (in the Spectral File) that is under examination, and a single Fingerprint is extracted and transposed to meet the requirements of the specific Spectral File frequency point. The Spectral File is scanned starting from the point under examination, and the collected frequency and
25 amplitude values are converted to a format matching the format of the Fingerprint File. Then the converted Spectral File information is compared against the Fingerprint's corresponding attributes, and a set of scores is generated from the results and stored in the Score File.

30 Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 INTERPRETATION (7.0):

"INTERPRETATION" refers to the novel process of evaluating the individual scores from the Score File (6.1) and reaching conclusions about the attributes and behavior of each event recognized in the source
35 wave. INTERPRETATION procedures search for scores which indicate that a potential event is starting and then gather a "series of scores" related to the potential event's fundamental frequency from time strips both before and after the time strip associated with the potential event.

INTERPRETATION of the series of scores is controlled by tractable rules which determine the meaning assigned to specific sequences and relationships of scores. Once the INTERPRETATION procedures determine an event has started and when, i.e., its "start-time", they then
5 calculate amplitude and track the event's duration.

The INTERPRETATION procedures contain utilities to scan the Score File (6.1) and gather statistics about the distribution of scores. The user can display these distribution graphs and select a range of scores to examine. Through a set of interactive procedures the user can
10 dynamically modify and add rules and conditions to the Rule File (7.1) pertinent to the data being analyzed.

In turn, INTERPRETATION's "feedback" procedures inform the user of questionable conditions arising from application of these rules to the data. Thus, the evolving "knowledge base" contained in the Rule File,
15 in conjunction with the score ranges, comprises a set of rules that govern the INTERPRETATION, FINGERPRINT, and COMPARISON procedures. These rules are stored and available to the user for future use.

INTERPRETATION's "duration tracking" procedures lock onto the event's partials and track the event until new events completely
20 interrupt all partials or a minimum amplitude threshold is crossed.

INTERPRETATION's "amplitude extraction" procedures also lock onto the partials and compare the amplitude levels of the Spectral File's partials to the amplitude levels of the Fingerprint's partials. When the current event is finished, the collected amplitude data are compared
25 to the Fingerprint's amplitude setting, and an event's "relative amplitude" is determined.

INTERPRETATION creates a Destination File (7.1) which is a database of conclusions made by its procedures. This file is then accessed by FEEDBACK (8.0) which sequences the results for the user to
30 verify.

Furthermore, the flow of output from the INTERPRETATION to the FEEDBACK (8.0) procedures is controlled by SETUP (2.0) or the user so

that new Fingerprints can be generated if comparison averages fall below an established threshold.

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 FEEDBACK (8.0):

5

"FEEDBACK" refers to the procedures which present results from previous procedures to the user for verification. In turn, the user specifies the conditions under which FEEDBACK is activated. FEEDBACK reads the appropriate portions of the Destination File (7.2) and
10 converts them to the format appropriate for DISPLAY (9.0) and OUTPUT DEVICES (10.1). FEEDBACK also controls the distribution of the Device Files (8.1) and Message Files (8.2) to the appropriate procedures. FEEDBACK procedures receive responses from the user and, in turn, control FINGERPRINT (5.0), CONVERSION (4.0), COMPARISON (6.0), and
15 INTERPRETATION (7.0) for the purpose of regenerating more accurate files. FEEDBACK also controls the generation and evolution of Rule Files (7.1).

Fig. 1. and Fig. 2 OUTPUT DEVICES (10.1):

20

"OUTPUT DEVICES " refer to the selected devices used by the FEEDBACK (8.0) procedures to verify results. Different applications use different devices since the frequency requirements of these applications vary and the means of presenting results necessarily differ. In
25 principle the OUTPUT DEVICES should be capable of receiving a file to be played or displayed and should include the controls to position, start, and stop the output of the Device Files (8.1).

Figs. 3-13.

(PROCEDURES)

30

The DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES section (below) further describes the essential processes involved in the key procedures: namely, CONVERSION 4.0, FINGERPRINT 5.0, COMPARISON 6.0, INTERPRETATION 7.0, and SYNCHRONIZATION 3.0. Since all other procedures cover ancillary functions for controlling particular device configurations, data flow,
35 and information display, these other procedures are not described in detail.

Fig. 14 APPARATUS OVERVIEW

The individual components of an exemplary apparatus in accordance with the invention generally comprise a device for converting, such as A/D Converter 3, continuous wave data from a wave source 1 into discrete digital samples which are processed by a computer 6 and associated
5 coprocessors 7, if any. The results are sent from the computer 6 to the D/A Converter 3, a graphics card and monitor 9, and into storage 10. Alternatively, a direct digital input 5, can enter wave data directly into the computer 6 without utilizing an A/D converter. A clock 2 can generate and read high speed timing information and signal the computer
10 to respond to timing information by controlling a timing request generator 4, which in turn controls the computer.

For acoustical wave analysis, the wave source 1 may be, for example, a multi-track tape recorder capable of processing tape having several tracks of audio signal, as well as an SMPTE time track. The
15 audio signal is fed from the tape recorder into the analog-to-digital converter 3, which may be, for example, an ARIEL™ DSP-16, which generates digital samples to be read by the computer 6, which may be, for example an IBM® or compatible PC 33MHz 80386 computer system, functioning under an operating system, such as MS-DOS® 3.3. The
20 computer system stores the digital samples on a storage device 10, which may be, for example, a hard disk drive. As stated previously, the A/D converter may be bypassed by using a direct digital input device 5, such as an AES EBU compatible input port. The processing power of the computer may be supplemented by coprocessors 7, such as an Eighteen
25 Eight Laboratories PL1250 floating-point array coprocessor, and by a multi-tasking operating system, such as MICROSOFT® Windows 3.0. The computer system generates signals to the graphics card and monitor 9, such as a VIDEO SEVEN™ 1024 X 768 high-resolution VGA video adapter and a NEC multisync high-resolution color monitor. The computer system sends
30 digital samples to the D/A converter 3, such as the ARIEL™ DSP-16. The high speed clock generator/reader 2, which may be for example a Roland SBX-80 SMPTE synchronizer, reads the SMPTE time code from the tape recorder and controls the timing request generator 4, which may be for example a Roland MPU-401 MIDI interface, directly interfaced to the
35 computer. The user controls the apparatus through commands entered through the computer keyboard 8.

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

CONVERSION

(Generate one time strip of a Spectral File)

NAME: Multi_PassSpectral()

FIG. 3

- 5 This procedure novelly generates multiple Spectral time strips of varying time and frequency qualities and then uniquely combines them into a single spectral time strip. To describe the process the program source code illustrates spectral generation for a single time strip. Typically, a Spectral File is composed of many time strips.
- 10 1. Reads the Setup File in order to extract the control parameters, frequency scales, and file names required by the Conversion procedures.
2. Sorts the file names in order of ascending FFT size to place the smaller FFT-sized Spectral time strips at the beginning
- 15 of the subsequent spectral-combine procedures.
3. Begins the loop for controlling the generation of multiple Spectral time strips of different FFT sizes.
4. Accesses the Setup File to retrieve variables specific to the FFT size used in the generation of the current Spectral
- 20 time strip.
5. Overlays the frequency scale requested by the user upon the FFT's frequency points and calculates floating point locations to determine the positions in the FFT at which the requested frequency scale points are to be extracted by
- 25 subsequent procedures. The results of an FFT may be viewed as a series of amplitudes at specific frequency points. However, the application of FFTs inherently produces too few frequency points in the lower frequencies for adequate interpretation and so many frequency points in the higher
- 30 frequencies that accurate selection is problematic. The invention's "polynomial interpolation" function novelly compensates for the lack of points in the lower frequencies, and its "peak-in-bin" function uniquely compensates for the excessive points in the higher frequencies.
- 35 6-9. Calculates the peak-in-bin tables to be used by subsequent procedures. Peak-in-bin procedures take the requested frequency scale point, find the closest FFT frequency point, and search the surrounding FFT frequency points (i.e., the "bin range") for the highest amplitude level.

6. Loops through all frequencies in the requested frequency scale.
7. Calculates and stores the bin-width and bin-width start locations for each requested frequency scale point.
- 5 8-9. Tests whether the bin-width is greater than a minimum bin-width requirement, and, if so, retains the frequency location at which to start peak-in-bin searching.
- 10 10. Loads a group of contiguous samples of a specific length derived from the Setup procedures into an array for FFT processing.
11. Applies an apodizing function to the sample array to reduce FFT analysis errors that occur at the edges of sample windows (a Hanning window is shown for illustration).
12. Performs an FFT of the requested size on the sample array.
- 15 13. Calculates the complex magnitude for each pair of real and imaginary parts contained in the FFT.
- 14-18. Performs a polynomial interpolation on the current time strip. Polynomial interpolation uses the InterpArray[] calculated in block 5 (above) to determine the exact position in the FFT to derive the individual amplitudes. The resulting amplitudes are placed in the TimeStrip array.
- 20 14. Loops through all frequency points in the requested frequency scale.
- 15-16. Loops through the surrounding FFT points at a width equal to the requirements of the curve-fitting procedure and collects the amplitudes.
- 25 17. Performs a Chi-squared orthogonal polynomial curve fit on the collected amplitudes and extracts the amplitude at the requested frequency offset position.
- 30 18. Saves the resulting amplitude value in the TimeStrip array.
- 19-22. Performs the peak-in-bin function on the current time strip.
19. Loops through the peak-in-bin frequency range one frequency location at a time.
20. Indexes the peak-in-bin start location, sets the width of the search, and loops through the search range.
- 35 21-22. Tests for the highest amplitude level in the search range and retains it along with the frequency location.
- 23-37. Combines multiple Spectral File time strips in a successive manner whereby each additional time strip further refines

the previous combinations. Spectral time strips generated by a FFT of a shorter duration contribute more to the time resolution of the final time strip, while time strips generated by a FFT of a longer duration contribute more to the frequency resolution of the final time strip.

5 23-24. Tests if the current time strip is the first time strip in this combination, and, if so, copies the entire time strip to the destination time strip.

10 25-26. Loads from the Setup File the variables which control the subsequent combination and loads a corresponding time strip from the previous combination.

 27-28. Examines whether any portion of the current time strip exists below the combine start location, and, if so, copies this lower range to the destination time strip.

15 29-30. Examines whether any portion of the current time strip exists above the combine end location, and, if so, copies this upper range to the destination time strip.

 31. Examines whether a combination of time strips is required, and, if not, bypasses the combination process.

20 32. Loops through all of the frequencies in the overlap region.

 33-34. Tests whether the previous amplitude or the current amplitude is zero, and, if either is the case, sets both amplitudes to zero.

 35-36. Averages the two amplitudes together and clips the average to the previous amplitude, thus protecting the timing information from becoming distorted by the increasing time inaccuracies of the larger-dimensioned FFT-generated Spectral Files.

25 37. Saves the result in the current time strip.

30 COMPARISON

(Initial database generation)

NAME: InitDatabaseGenerate()

FIG. 4

35 COMPARISON derives a Score File from a Spectral File by comparing the Spectral information to stored Fingerprint information. This initial database generation step constructs the database which is subsequently processed by further COMPARISON procedures. Acting as a preprocessor, the Initial Database Generation step uniquely determines

which areas of the Spectral File justify further comparison in order to reduce subsequent calculations.

1. Loops the variable "Fundamental" through a selected range of fundamental frequencies.
- 5 2. Calculates the Fingerprint's "FingerHeader" and "FingerData" addresses for Fundamental, then calculates the transposition between Fundamental and FingerHeader's fundamental frequency.
- 10 3. Loops the variable "StripNumber" through a selected range of time strips.
4. Loops the variable "CompletedPartials" through the partials listed in FingerHeader.
5. Calculates the Fingerprint's "FingerPartial" offset address for CompletedPartials.
- 15 6. Loops the variable "CompareStrip" through a selected number of time strips offset from StripNumber.
7. Calculates the Spectral File's "SpectralCenter" address for the frequency locations associated with CompareStrip.
- 20 8. Searches the higher and lower frequencies surrounding SpectralCenter to find a peak amplitude and corresponding frequency location.
9. Tests if Fundamental is locked onto a neighboring frequency and branches accordingly.
- 10-11. If a valid peak is found, compares the Fingerprint drift to the Spectral drift and calculates a drift variation score.
- 25 12. Compares the Fingerprint form to the Spectral form and derives a form variation score.
13. Compares the Fingerprint amplitude to the Spectral amplitude and derives an amplitude variation score.
- 30 14. Adjusts each partial's drift variation score based on frequency and time constraints.
15. Calculates the final scores for amplitude, drift, and form variation.
- 16-17. Tests if the variation scores are high enough to justify acceptance of the final scores, and, if so, saves the event into the Score database.
- 35

COMPARISON

(Time slope compare)

NAME: CompareTimeSlope()

FIG. 5

- Time Slope refers to the slope between two time strips at given frequency positions, as calculated from the amplitudes at those time strip and frequency locations. The Time Slope Comparison step uniquely determines a score which reflects how closely the time slopes for the Fingerprint and Spectral File match.
1. Loops the variable "CompletedPartials" through a selected range of frequency offsets.
 - 10 2. Exits if the number of failed partials exceeds a certain limit.
 3. Calculates the variable "FundamentalOffset" based on the current value of CompletedPartials by using the FundOffsetTable.
 - 15 4. Derives the search-width-table address and Fingerprint data addresses.
 5. Calculates the Spectral File's "SpectralCenter" address for the frequency locations associated with the current value of the variable "TimeStrip" and FundamentalOffset.
 - 20 6. Searches higher and lower frequencies surrounding SpectralCenter to find a peak amplitude and corresponding frequency location.
 7. Loops the variable "CompareStrip" through a selected number of time strips offset from TimeStrip.
 - 25 8. Calculates the Fingerprint data offset address for the current TimeStrip and CompletedPartials.
 9. Finds the peak amplitude for the next time strip.
 - 10-11. Calculates the time slope for two points in Spectral File and adjusts its variation percentage based on the given slope's frequency, time strip, and amplitude.
 - 30 12-13. Calculates the time slope for two points in the Fingerprint File and adjusts its variation percentage based on the given slope's frequency, time strip, and amplitude.
 - 14-15. Derives a variation score by comparing the Spectral File's variation to the Fingerprint File's variation and compares that score to a minimum acceptable score.
 - 35 16. Adds the time strip variation score to the partial variation score total.

17. Swaps the amplitude values for the next time strip slope calculation, thereby eliminating one amplitude extraction step.
18. Adds the variation score for one partial to the total variation score.
19. Increments the failed partial total if the number of failed time strips exceeds an established limit.
20. Calculates and saves the final time slope variation for all partials in the comparison.

10 COMPARISON

(Frequency distribution width compare)

NAME: CompareWidth()

FIG. 6

Frequency Distribution Width refers to a found peak's full width above and below the peak's center. The Frequency Distribution Width Comparison step novelly determines a score that reflects how closely the Frequency Distribution Widths for the Fingerprint File and Spectral File match each other at given time and frequency locations.

1. Loops the variable "CompletedPartials" through the partials listed in FingerHeader.
2. Loops the variable "CompareStrip" through a selected range of time strips offset from the variable "TimeStrip".
3. Calculates the Fingerprint data address offsets.
- 4-5. Searches higher and lower frequencies surrounding SpectralCenter to find a peak amplitude and corresponding frequency location and sets form variables to NO_FORM if no peak amplitude is found.
6. Abandons the width search if previous steps found a "perfect" width.
7. Determines an accurate width for the peak, a description of the form of that peak, and a description of the form of the above and below segments of that peak.
8. Compares the width form of the Spectral File to the width form of the Fingerprint File and derives a width form variation score.
9. Calculates the width variation score for the current time strip.
10. Compares variation scores to minimum acceptance scores.

11. Adds the variation for one partial to the partial variation total.
12. Increments the failed partial total if the number of failed time strips exceeds an established limit.
- 5 13. Calculates and stores the width variation score for all partials in the comparison.

COMPARISON

(Find peak)

NAME: FindPeak()

10 FIG. 7

FindPeak novelly locates the most clearly defined amplitude peak within a set frequency range around a center position. The search range is uniquely dynamically controlled based on the current time strip and frequency position.

- 15 1. Calculates the frequency search range for this peak search and sets the variables "UpSearchRange" and "DnSearchRange" to the calculated search range.
2. Calculates the variable "TotalSearchRange" for further Comparison calculations.
- 20 3. Searches for a peak above and a peak below the center frequency within the frequency search range.
4. Searches above the center position for the nearest peak using slope direction flags and threshold flags.
- 25 5. Determines the amplitude of the current frequency position in the Spectral File.
6. Calculates the direction of the amplitude slope for neighboring frequency positions as being either UP, DOWN, or PLATEAU. PLATEAU refers to areas of relatively level amplitude and slowly changing slope.
- 30 7. Compares the Spectral File amplitude to a minimum threshold for the current frequency position, and stops searching if the amplitude level falls below the minimum threshold.
8. Searches below the center position for the nearest peak using slope direction flags and threshold flags.
- 35 9. Disables the search if the number of consecutive down slopes exceeds an established down slope tolerance.
10. Updates the peak amplitude and location if the most recently found amplitude is larger than the stored peak amplitude.

11. Sets the variable "PerfectWidth" to TRUE if a perfect width is found, thus implying that above and below the peak the amplitudes slope down to a minimum threshold.
12. Derives the form of the found peak from the search data under analysis.
13. Derives the form of the above and below slopes around the peak position based on search variables and width data.
14. Saves all peak data.

COMPARISON

10 (Find frequency distribution width)

NAME: FindFrequencyWidth()

FIG. 8

15 Find Frequency Distribution Width uniquely determines the extent and shape of the peak in frequency space once the center position has been determined. Information is produced concerning the above peak and below peak width and form. If a better peak is found within the new search range, then the peak position and amplitude are updated.

1. Calculates the extent of the search in both the above and the below directions.
- 20 2. Loops the variable "Both" through the two possible search directions, ABOVE and BELOW.
3. Stops the search if the original peak search found a clearly defined width.
4. Loops the variable "Search" through the maximum search range allowed for either direction.
- 25 5. Abandons the search if the current value of Search exceeds the search limit for this direction.
6. Determines the amplitude at the current peak position.
7. Calculates the direction of the frequency slope and places this value in the variable "DirectionCase".
- 30 8. Branches depending on the calculated slope direction found in DirectionCase.
9. If the slope trend is downward, tests the peak amplitude to determine if it falls below a dynamically established threshold.
- 35 10. If the slope trend is upward, tests the slope rate of change for an interrupt condition. An interrupt condition implies that a slope which once had a downward trend suddenly

changed direction at a rate exceeding a dynamically established limit.

- 11-12. Calculates the fadeout position on completion of the search or if the search has found an interrupt.
- 5 13. Updates the peak amplitude value and position if the search has not completed and there has not been an interrupt.
- 14. Updates the peak amplitude value and position if the slope direction is a PLATEAU.
- 10 15. Tests if the width search is finished and branches accordingly.
- 16. Sets the final width form to an "up only" condition if the slope within the search range is only an up slope to the edge of the search range.
- 15 17. Sets the final width form to a "down to edge" condition if the slope within the search range is only a down slope to the edge of the search range.
- 18. Sets the final width form to a plateau condition, if the nature of the slope within the search range is neither "up to edge" nor "down to edge".
- 20 19. Saves the current peak form in the final peak form variables.
- 20. Retains the current width form in the final width form variables.
- 21. Retains the final peak amplitude and position.

25 INTERPRETATION

(Control the interpretation of scores)

NAME: InterpretScores()

FIG. 9

Interpretation of scores comprises two categories. One involves scanning the Score File generated by the Comparison process to determine local maximums where the Fingerprint and Spectral Files match best. The other involves novelly tracing the individual frequency components of the matched source forward in time from the lock position until they either fade out or are interrupted, thus allowing accurate determination of the duration of the tracked event. The start and end times, as well as performance parameters determined during the scan, are then stored in the final database.

1. Loads the current score from the Comparison File into the CompareScore structure.
2. Loops the variable "ScoreCount" through all scores in the Comparison File which fall between the established start and end time strips.
3. Tests if the current score's fundamental frequency falls between the established start and end frequencies and branches accordingly.
4. Evaluates the score and sets a flag if the score justifies further search.
5. Checks if the score falls within the frequency range of another search in progress.
6. Tests if the preliminary evaluation flag is TRUE and if this score is not in conflict with current searches in progress, and branches accordingly.
7. Loads a series of scores from the Comparison File which fall within a frequency and time strip range related to the current score.
- 8-9. Analyzes the series of scores to locate the most likely start of the event. If a clear event start is located, the "SeriesTest" flag is set to TRUE and tested.
10. Allocates resources in the duration database to track this event.
11. Tracks the partials of the event until the event's duration is determined.
12. Saves the found event if the event's duration exceeds an established lower limit.
13. Analyzes a time uncertainty and updates the knowledge base if the SeriesTest flag indicates a time uncertainty.
14. Analyzes a poor score and updates the knowledge base if the SeriesTest flag indicates a poor score.
15. Increments the current score count and loads in the next score from the Comparison File.

INTERPRETATION

35 (Evaluate a series of scores)

NAME: EvaluateSeries()

FIG. 10

Evaluate a Series of Scores novelly gathers a series of scores of related frequencies over a limited range of time strips, then uniquely locates the most likely score maximum within that series, and novelly calculates the equivalent time strip based on the offset into the score series. It also novelly provides useful information concerning potential errors in the analysis.

1. Loops the variable "SeriesLoop" through each entry in the series.
2. Records the series location of the current score if it is the maximum score in the series search.
3. Continues searching for the maximum score if the current score falls below the found maximum score.
4. Accepts the most recent maximum score if the search has reached an established search range limit without encountering a better maximum for this score attribute.
5. Continues this process for all other score attributes.
6. Calculates a lock position using a cumulative buffer. Adds a score to the cumulative buffer at the series offset where an attribute's score reaches a maximum. If several attributes lock on the same location the lock position will show an excellent cumulative score.
7. Calculates the best cumulative locking position by scanning the cumulative buffer.
8. Searches the cumulative buffer again and finds a secondary locking position.
9. Calculates the time strip which corresponds to the best locking position found in the cumulative buffer.
10. Records the best lock position.
11. Sets flags indicating that this region must be analyzed further if the cumulative buffer value at the lock position falls within an established uncertainty limit.
12. Sets flags indicating that an event has not been found within the time strip range of the Series array if the cumulative buffer value at the lock position falls below an established threshold.
13. Sets flags indicating that the exact lock position cannot be determined if a secondary lock position exists at an established distance separate from the primary lock position.

14. Sets flags indicating that the lock position is acceptable if a clear lock has been attained.

INTERPRETATION

(Find the duration of an event)

5 NAME: FindDuration()

FIG. 11

Once an event has started, its duration is tracked by the FindDuration routine which novelly monitors the Spectral File's partials at the frequency locations specified by the FingerPrint File and detects
10 when the partial fades out or is interrupted by another event. As each partial is canceled by fade-out or by interruption, the total partial count is decremented. As active partials decrease, flags are set to indicate "fragile" duration tracking. Interpretation routines monitor the stability of the duration tracking for the current event. When
15 active partials fall below a user-defined minimum, the event is flagged as complete and all duration tracking resources are freed.

1. Tests if this event is a continuation of a preceding duration scan. If so, fade-out and interrupt entries in the database are tested, and the FadeScore and InterruptScore are appropriately updated with the correct number of
20 inactive partials.
2. Controls the loop through all of the partials.
3. Calculates the bit mask and database indexes needed by subsequent Interpretation steps.
- 25 4-5. Tests if the current partial has already faded out or has been interrupted, and, if so, increments a completed partial count. Before an interrupt condition can occur a series of down slopes must take place. By searching for an initial down slope the duration tracking routines allow the initial
30 attack portion of an event to transpire successfully and to start to decay in amplitude.
6. Examines the duration tracking database and determines if a down slope occurred during a previous duration scan.
7. Calculates the memory address of the beginning of the
35 Fingerprint data.
8. Controls the loop through the time strips.
9. Accumulates a Fingerprint amplitude total used in determining the current event's amplitude.

10. Retrieves the amplitude of the Spectral File for the current position in frequency and time.
11. Accumulates the Spectral File amplitude total used to calculate an event amplitude.
- 5 12-14. Compares the Spectral amplitude to the Fingerprint amplitude, and, if the Spectral amplitude falls below a user-defined percentage of the Fingerprint amplitude, a bad-partial count is incremented. If the bad-partial count exceeds a rejection threshold, the partial is marked as completed and a FadeScore count is incremented. If enough
10 partials fall below the rejection threshold and if this duration scan is the first for the current event, then FindDuration marks this event as invalid.
- 15-18. Sets bits in the duration tracking database if the current
15 amplitude falls substantially below the calculated running amplitude average and a down slope is found.
- 19-20. Tests if the current Spectral amplitude falls below the fade-out amplitude, and, if so, sets fade-out bits in the duration tracking database.
- 20 21-22. Tests if the general slope of the last few amplitude levels is trending in an upward direction. If so, a more extensive amplitude trend is calculated.
- 23-24. Sets bits in the duration tracking database and increments the interrupt score if the current amplitude level exceeds
25 the trend level plus an offset amount.
25. Accumulates a wild frequency drift count and a bad-form count. Since certain event combinations can destroy the recognizable fade-out and interrupt characteristics of the Spectral File, a third test can be made to test for wild
30 frequency drift and dramatic form variations since these conditions indicate a new event obscuring the tracking capabilities of FindDuration.
- 26-27. Tests if the wild-drift count or bad-form count exceeds an established minimum, and, if so, sets bits in the duration tracking database.
35
28. Totals the amplitudes for the current partial.
29. Calculates an event amplitude if this is the first duration scan.

30. Assigns the results of the duration scan to the variables returned from FindDuration.

FINGERPRINT

(Make Fingerprint)

5 NAME: MakeFingerprint()

FIG. 12

MakeFingerprint uniquely extracts and saves the identifying characteristics of a Spectral File from a known source. The Spectral File is scanned at each partial's frequency position for frequency peaks and general drift centers are determined. The Spectral File is analyzed a second time, and the peak amplitudes, drifts, widths, and details of peak structure are saved for each peak. The final result is a Fingerprint File containing the essential information describing the known source.

- 15 1. Initializes the variables for the Fingerprint generation process.
2. Loops the variable "FreqLoop" through all frequencies in the Fingerprint generation frequency range and fills the PartialOnOff map.
- 20 3. Loops the variable "TimeLoop" through a set range of time strips.
4. Finds the amplitude peak nearest in frequency to FreqLoop.
5. Sets the above and below form variables to the NO_FORM state if an accurate peak cannot be found, thus indicating that the peak has no discernable form.
- 25 6. Finds the frequency width, form, and drift.
7. Disables the analysis of this partial if the drift is extremely erratic over several time strips. Erratic drift implies an uncertain frequency position for the partial.
- 30 8. Marks the current time strip as being the end of the drift-center determination range unless the current amplitude exceeds a dynamic threshold, in which case the amplitude is included in the determination of the drift center position.
- 35 9. Calculates the increment to the "PartialAmp" value based on a comparison of the current partial to a known standard amplitude.

10. Finds the common drift center for the partial under analysis.
11. Logs the partial in the PartialOnOff map without drift if the finished partial is the fundamental.
- 5 12. Logs the partial in the PartialOnOff map if the number of strips used in the calculation of the common drift center exceeds the minimum number of required time strips.
13. Calculates the next recommended frequency to analyze from a map of partial ratios.
- 10 14. Saves the calculated PartialOnOff map and associated variables in the Fingerprint File.
- 15 15. Loops the variable FreqLoop through all frequencies in the Fingerprint generation range and fills the Fingerprint with the correct amplitude levels.
- 15 16-17. Loops the variable TimeLoop through an established range of time strips if the PartialOnOff map indicates that the current frequency corresponds to a listed partial.
18. Finds the amplitude peak closest to the partial under analysis.
- 20 19. Sets the Form variables to NO_FORM if an accurate peak cannot be found, thus implying that the peak has no form.
20. Finds the frequency width, form, and drift.
21. Saves the completed Fingerprint partial data in the Fingerprint File.

25 SYNCHRONIZATION

(General discussion.)

To facilitate the ensuing discussion of the Synchronization procedures, devices and control procedures common to the music and recording industry are included for purposes of illustration and in no way imply any limit on the general applicability of the invention.

Recording processes in the music industry commonly utilize a standard synchronizing timing protocol specified by the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE). In addition, the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), a standard for describing and controlling the exchange of music information between electronic instruments and related devices, is also in widespread use in the industry. Thus, application of the invention to the analysis of acoustic waveforms in music involves interfacing with a SMPTE

generator/reader as a high-resolution clocking device. Such devices are typically capable of generating MIDI real-time clock signals that can be passed to an apparatus in accordance with the invention via a MIDI serial interface that is responsible for generating the timing requests to which the invention responds.

For digital sampling purposes an analog-to-digital converter controlled by a dedicated signal processing device is suggested. Whatever the field of application, the sampling device selected should be capable of sampling at a rate corresponding to the demands of the waveform being recorded and of responding to START_RECORD, STOP_RECORD, and ELAPSED_SAMPLE requests from the invention.

SYNCHRONIZATION

(Record a Sample File, and generate sync table)

NAME: RecordAndSync()

FIG. 13A

- 1-3. Allocates memory for the synchronization table, initializes the record variables and counters, enables the interrupts (timing requests), sets the interrupt rate, and initializes the interrupt processing routines.
4. Starts the recording process.
- 5-7. Sends an END_RECORD command and disables the interrupt processing routines if a stop-recording request is received from the user.
8. Saves the synchronization table.

SYNCHRONIZATION

(Event time request processing)

NAME: proc_int

FIG. 13B

These routines utilize assembly language in order to provide a quick, accurate, and precise response to interrupts.

- 1-2. Retrieves the data placed in the data port by the interrupt generating process and verifies the presence of a clock identifier command.
- 3-4. Retrieves the elapsed sample count from the sampling device, clears the sampling device's elapsed sample counter, and stores the elapsed sample count in the synchronization table.

SYNCHRONIZATION

(Calculate synchronized time from sync table)

NAME: GetSyncTimeData()

FIG. 13C

- 5 1. Calculates the absolute time of the requested StartTimeStrip
 as well as the absolute interrupt count that would be
 associated with this absolute time if the measurement and
 recording of the passage of time were constant. Also
 calculates the difference between (a) the time associated
10 with the interrupt count which falls immediately before the
 requested StartTimeStrip (LowerInterrupt) and (b) the
 absolute time of the requested StartTimeStrip.
2. Searches the synchronization table to find the sample count
 associated with the LowerInterrupt and the sample count
15 associated with the interrupt immediately following the
 absolute interrupt.
3. Calculates the number of samples between the lower sample
 count and the upper sample count and multiplies this
 quantity by the time difference calculated in block 1
20 (above), thus resulting in the sample offset from the lower
 interrupt sample count.
4. Adds the lower interrupt sample count to the sample offset
 to calculate the final sample count.
5. Multiplies the final sample count by the time of one sample
25 in order to calculate the final synchronized time.

Timing accuracy of these processes can be increased by decreasing
the time interval between interrupts.

Although the invention has been described with reference a
preferred embodiment, other embodiments can achieve the same results.
30 Variations and modifications of the present invention will be obvious to
those skilled in the art, and the appended claims are intended to cover
all such modifications and equivalents.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for computer automated detection and identification of one or more events from one or more continuous streams of wave data, each event having frequency, amplitude, and time components, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) transforming a continuous stream of wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectral information to minimize computational time and to optimize frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy;
 - b) extracting identifying characteristics from the spectral information obtained from the continuous stream of wave data;
 - c) generating and retaining a Fingerprint from the extracted identifying characteristics of a selected known event comprising a source, a time, and a fundamental frequency which are determinable by a user;
 - d) comparing the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding identifying characteristics extracted from the spectral information obtained from one or more continuous streams of wave data and producing a database of sets of scores describing a level of correspondence between the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and corresponding identifying characteristics of a potential event; and
 - e) selecting from the database sets of scores having a preselected level of correspondence to the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and interpreting spectral information associated with the selected sets of scores to determine the presence of a specific event, its start-time, its amplitude, and its duration.
2. The invention of claim 1 wherein the transforming step a) comprises interpreting output of an FFT function to derive amplitudes of selected frequency components using polynomial interpolation.
3. The product produced by the process of claim 2.

4. The invention of claim 1 wherein the transforming step a) comprises interpreting output of an FFT function to predict an amplitude of a selected frequency component by searching for an amplitude peak inside a calculated bin range.

5 5. The invention of claim 1 wherein the transforming step a) comprises providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by a plurality of different length FFT's using frequency limiting.

10 6. The invention of claim 1 wherein the transforming step a) comprises providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by different length FFT's using amplitude averaging and amplitude clipping.

15 7. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises extracting amplitude-independent slopes of partials over time.

8. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises extracting amplitude-independent slopes existing between coterminous partials.

20 9. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution widths for partials.

10. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width settle-times for partials over time.

25 11. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width forms for partials.

30 12. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises determining a frequency position for a most prevalent amplitude peak of a partial and a relative drift of individual amplitude peaks from the most prevalent amplitude peak.

13. The invention of claim 1 wherein the extracting identifying characteristics step b) comprises comparing an accumulated total amplitude for all of a plurality of partials for a predetermined number of time positions to an accumulated total amplitude derived from an amplitude reference Fingerprint having a known amplitude level and calculating a resulting relative amplitude level.

14. The invention of claim 1 wherein the Fingerprint generating and retaining step c) comprises generating a Fingerprint from spectral information by extracting the identifying characteristics of the selected known event and retaining at least one of the identifying characteristics.

15. The product produced by the process of claim 14.

16. The invention of claim 1 wherein the Fingerprint generating and retaining step c) comprises generating a Fingerprint from more than one selected known event, each having the same fundamental frequency and source, and retaining a set of identifying characteristics which represent an average of at least one of the identifying characteristics.

17. The invention of claim 1 wherein the comparing step d) comprises transposing selected frequency components of the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding frequency criteria of the spectral information; extracting at least one identifying characteristic from spectral information that corresponds to at least one of the identifying characteristics selected from the Fingerprint; comparing the extracted identifying characteristics of the spectral information to the corresponding identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint; and producing a set of scores which reflects the degree of amplitude-independent correspondence.

18. The product produced by the process of claim 17.

19. The invention of claim 1 wherein the selecting and interpreting step e) comprises determining the presence of a specific event, accumulating a series of scores for a fundamental frequency associated with the specific event, and analyzing a trend of the series of scores over time to determine precisely where in time the specific event begins.

20. The invention of claim 19 comprising further analyzing the series of scores of the specific event to determine if a separate potential event, having partials related to the partials of the specific event, exists within the time covered by the series of scores of the specific event, thereby revealing the possibility of an incorrect interpretation of the series of scores.

21. The invention of claim 19 further comprising accumulating an amplitude for each partial of the specific event for each time location forward in time from the start of the specific event, comparing an accumulated total of the amplitudes of the partials to an amplitude total for partials of the Fingerprint, and calculating a relative amplitude for the specific event.

22. The invention of claim 19 further comprising determining the duration of the specific event by examining the amplitude level of the specific event's partials over time to determine if and when the amplitude level falls below a minimum selected threshold.

23. The invention of claim 19 further comprising determining the duration of the specific event by comparing the amplitude level of each partial of the specific event over time against an average of the amplitudes of the specific event taken at precedent time locations to determine whether a new event has interrupted the duration of the specific event.

24. The invention of claim 19 further comprising determining the duration of the specific event by testing for a drift of the amplitude peak over time to identify larger drift variations that can follow a predetermined time period of smaller drift variations, thereby indicating that a new event has interrupted the partial of the specific event.

25. The invention of claim 1 further comprising synchronizing to an external time-base the start-times associated with a plurality of specific events, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) generating and storing a table of elapsed sample count for each of a plurality of event timing requests;
- b) calculating an event timing request count for the start-time of the specific event and indexing the elapsed sample count table with the event timing request count to retrieve an elapsed sample count;
- 10 c) calculating a time offset between the start-time of the specific event and an event timing request time calculated from the event timing request count;
- d) using the time offset, further calculating a relative time offset from the elapsed sample count;
- 15 e) calculating a synchronized time by adding the elapsed sample count to the relative time offset; and
- f) assigning the synchronized time to the specific event.

26. The product produced by the process of claim 25.

27. An apparatus for computer automated detection and
20 identification of one or more events from one or more continuous streams of wave data, each event having frequency, amplitude, and time components, said apparatus comprising:

means for transforming a continuous stream of wave data into frequency, amplitude, and time spectral information to minimize
25 computational time and to optimize frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy;

means for extracting identifying characteristics from the spectral information obtained from the continuous stream of wave data;

30 means for generating and retaining a Fingerprint from the extracted identifying characteristics of a selected known event comprising a source, a time, and a fundamental frequency which are determinable by a user;

means for comparing the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding identifying characteristics extracted from the spectral information obtained from one or more continuous streams of wave data and for producing a database of sets of scores describing a level of correspondence between the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and corresponding identifying characteristics of a potential event; and

means for selecting from the database sets of scores having a preselected level of correspondence to the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint and for interpreting spectral information associated with the selected sets of scores to determine the presence of a specific event, its start-time, its amplitude, and its duration.

28. The invention of claim 27 wherein the wave data transforming means comprises means for interpreting the output of an FFT function to derive amplitudes of selected frequency components using polynomial interpolation.

29. The invention of claim 27 wherein said wave data transforming means comprises means for interpreting the output of an FFT function to predict an amplitude of a selected frequency component by searching for an amplitude peak inside a calculated bin range.

30. The invention of claim 27 wherein said wave data transforming means comprises means for providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by a plurality of different length FFT's using frequency limiting.

31. The invention of claim 27 wherein said wave data transforming means comprises means for providing frequency, amplitude, and time accuracy by combining spectral information produced by different length FFT's using amplitude averaging and amplitude clipping means.

32. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for extracting amplitude-independent slopes of partials over time.

33. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for extracting amplitude-independent slopes existing between coterminous partials.

5 34. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution widths for partials.

10 35. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width settle-times for partials over time.

36. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for extracting amplitude-independent, frequency-distribution width forms for partials.

15 37. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for determining a frequency position for a most prevalent amplitude peak of a partial and a relative drift of individual amplitude peaks from the most prevalent amplitude peak.

20 38. The invention of claim 27 wherein said identifying characteristics extracting means comprises means for comparing an accumulated total amplitude for all of a plurality of partials for a predetermined number of time positions to an accumulated total amplitude derived from an amplitude reference Fingerprint having a known amplitude level and means for calculating a resulting relative amplitude level.

25 39. The invention of claim 27 wherein said Fingerprint generating and retaining means comprises means for generating a Fingerprint from spectral information by extracting the identifying characteristics of the selected known event and retaining at least one of the identifying characteristics.

40. The invention of claim 27 wherein said Fingerprint generating and retaining means comprises means for generating a Fingerprint from more than one selected known event, each having the same fundamental frequency and source, and means for retaining a set of
5 identifying characteristics which represent an average of at least one of the identifying characteristics.

41. The invention of claim 27 wherein said comparing means comprises means for transposing selected frequency components of the identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint to corresponding
10 frequency criteria of the spectral information; means for extracting at least one identifying characteristic from the spectral information that corresponds to at least one of the identifying characteristics selected from the Fingerprint; means for comparing the extracted identifying
15 characteristics of the spectral information to the corresponding identifying characteristics of the Fingerprint; and means for producing a set of scores which reflects the degree of amplitude-independent correspondence.

42. The invention of claim 27 wherein said selecting and interpreting means comprises means for determining the presence of a
20 specific event, means for accumulating a series of scores for a fundamental frequency associated with the specific event, and means for analyzing the trend of the series of scores over time to determine precisely where in time the specific event begins.

43. The invention of claim 42 further comprising means for
25 further analyzing the series of scores of the specific event to determine if a separate potential event, having partials related to the partials of the specific event, exists within the time covered by the series of scores of the specific event, thereby revealing the possibility of an incorrect interpretation of the series of scores.

30 44. The invention of claim 42 further comprising means for accumulating an amplitude for each partial of the specific event for each time location forward in time from the start of the specific event, means for comparing an accumulated total of the amplitudes of the partials to an amplitude total for partials of the Fingerprint, and
35 means for calculating a relative amplitude for the specific event.

45. The invention of claim 42 further comprising means for determining the duration of the specific event by examining the amplitude level of the specific event's partials over time to determine if and when the amplitude level falls below a minimum selected
5 threshold.

46. The invention of claim 42 further comprising means for determining the duration of the specific event by comparing the amplitude level of each partial of the specific event over time against an average of the amplitudes of the specific event taken at precedent
10 time locations to determine whether a new event has interrupted the duration of the specific event.

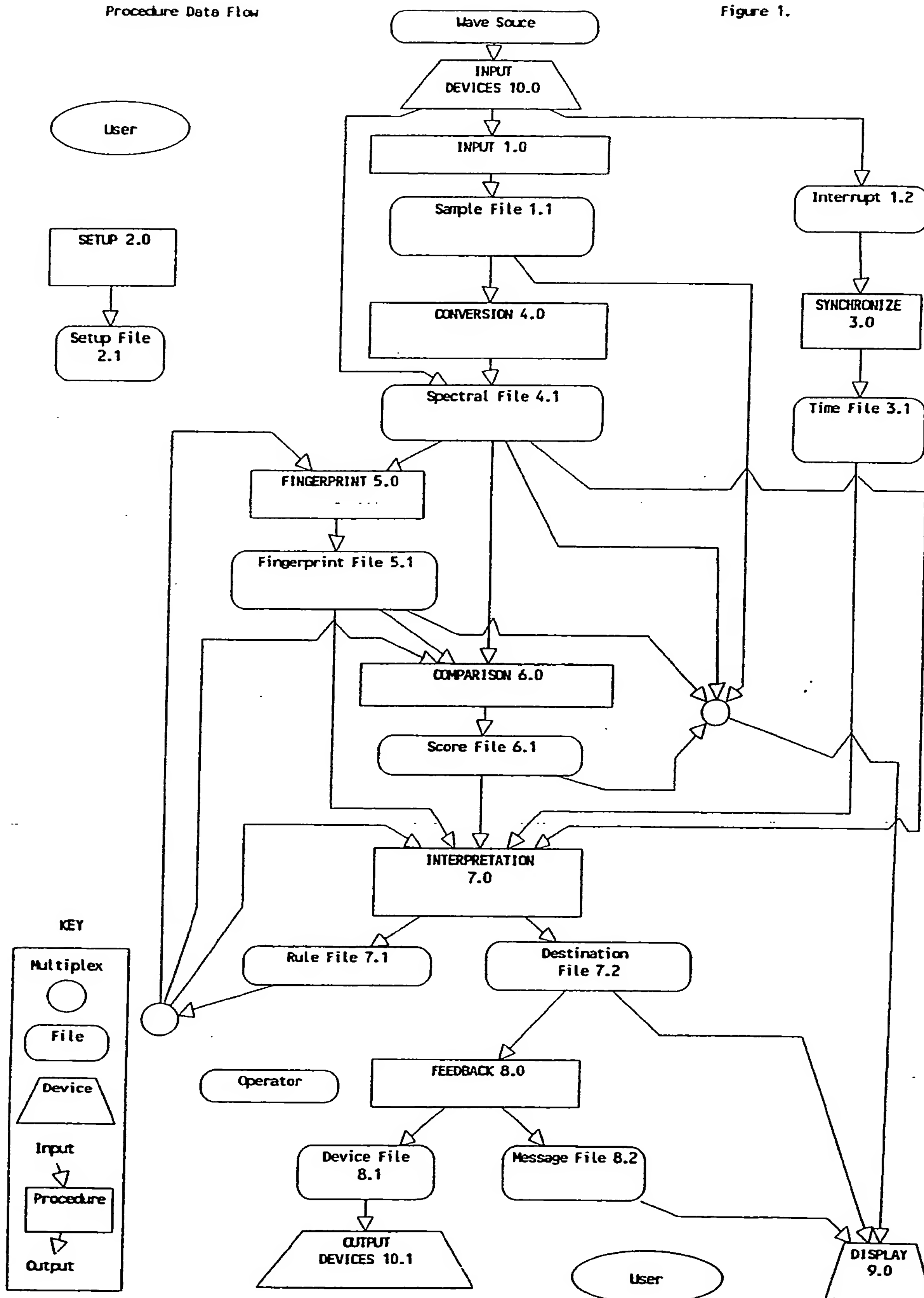
47. The invention of claim 42 further comprising means for determining the duration of the specific event by testing for a drift of the amplitude peak over time to identify larger drift variations that
15 can follow a predetermined time period of smaller drift variations, thereby indicating that a new event has interrupted the partial of the specific event.

48. The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising means for synchronizing to an external time-base, start-times associated with a
20 plurality of specific events, the apparatus comprising:
means for generating and storing a table of elapsed sample count for each of a plurality of event timing requests;
means for calculating an event timing request count for the start-time of the specific event and for indexing the elapsed sample
25 count table with the event timing request count to retrieve an elapsed sample count;
means for calculating a time offset between the start-time of the specific event and an event timing request time calculated from the event timing request count;
30 means for using the time offset to further calculate a relative time offset from the elapsed sample count;
means for calculating a synchronized time by adding the elapsed sample count to the relative time offset; and
means for assigning the calculated synchronized time to the
35 specific event.

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Procedure Data Flow

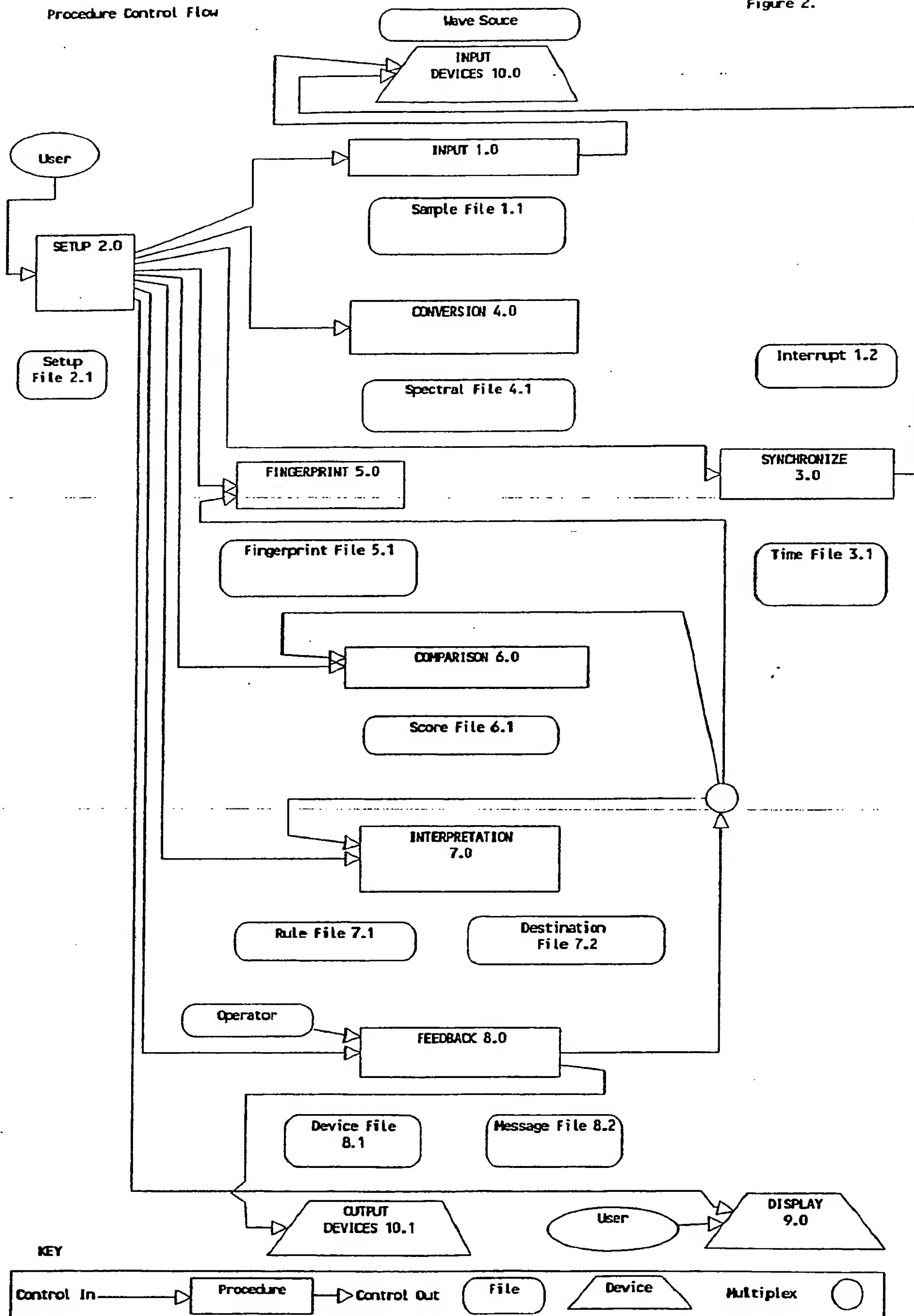
Figure 1.



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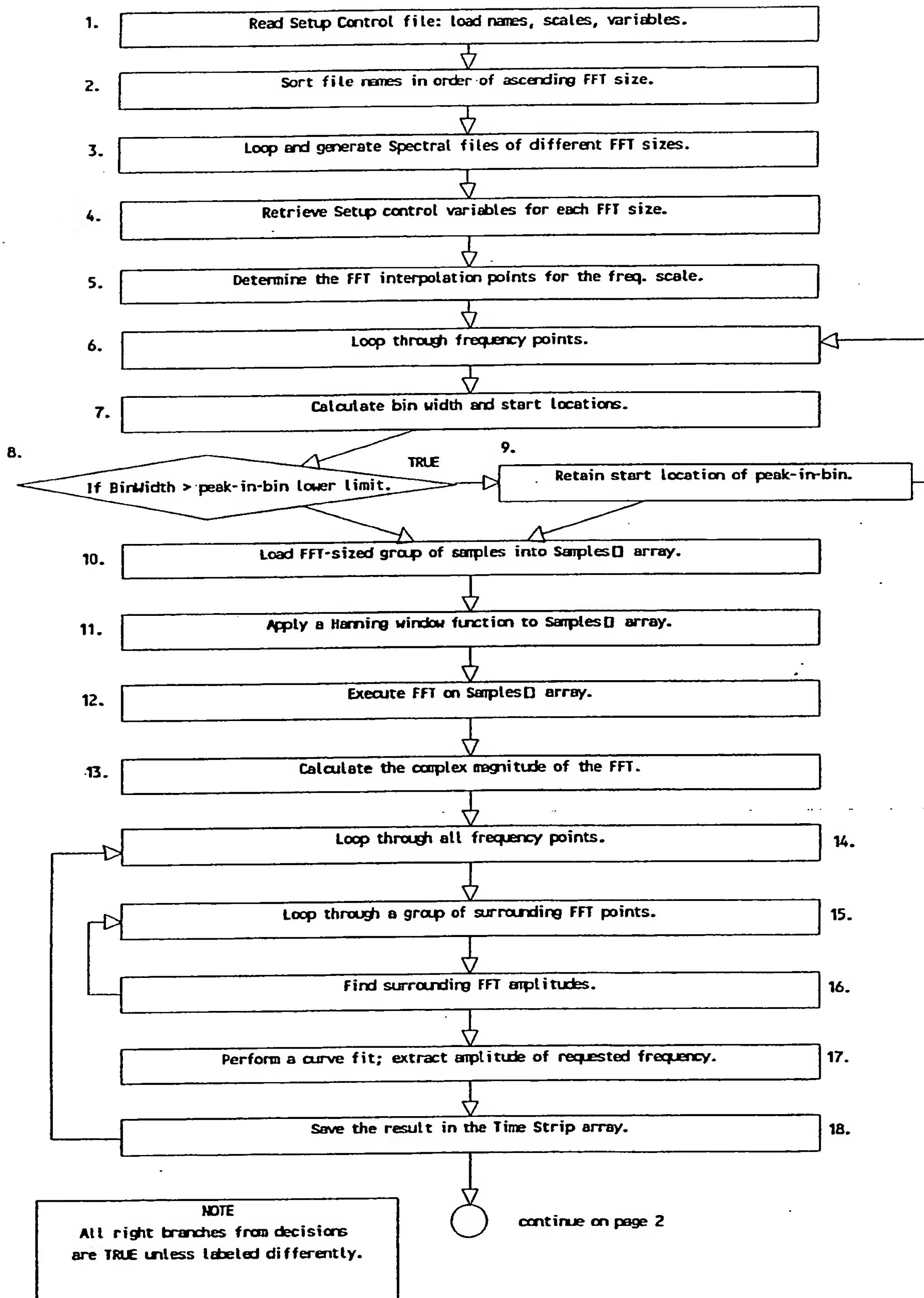
Procedure Control Flow

Figure 2.



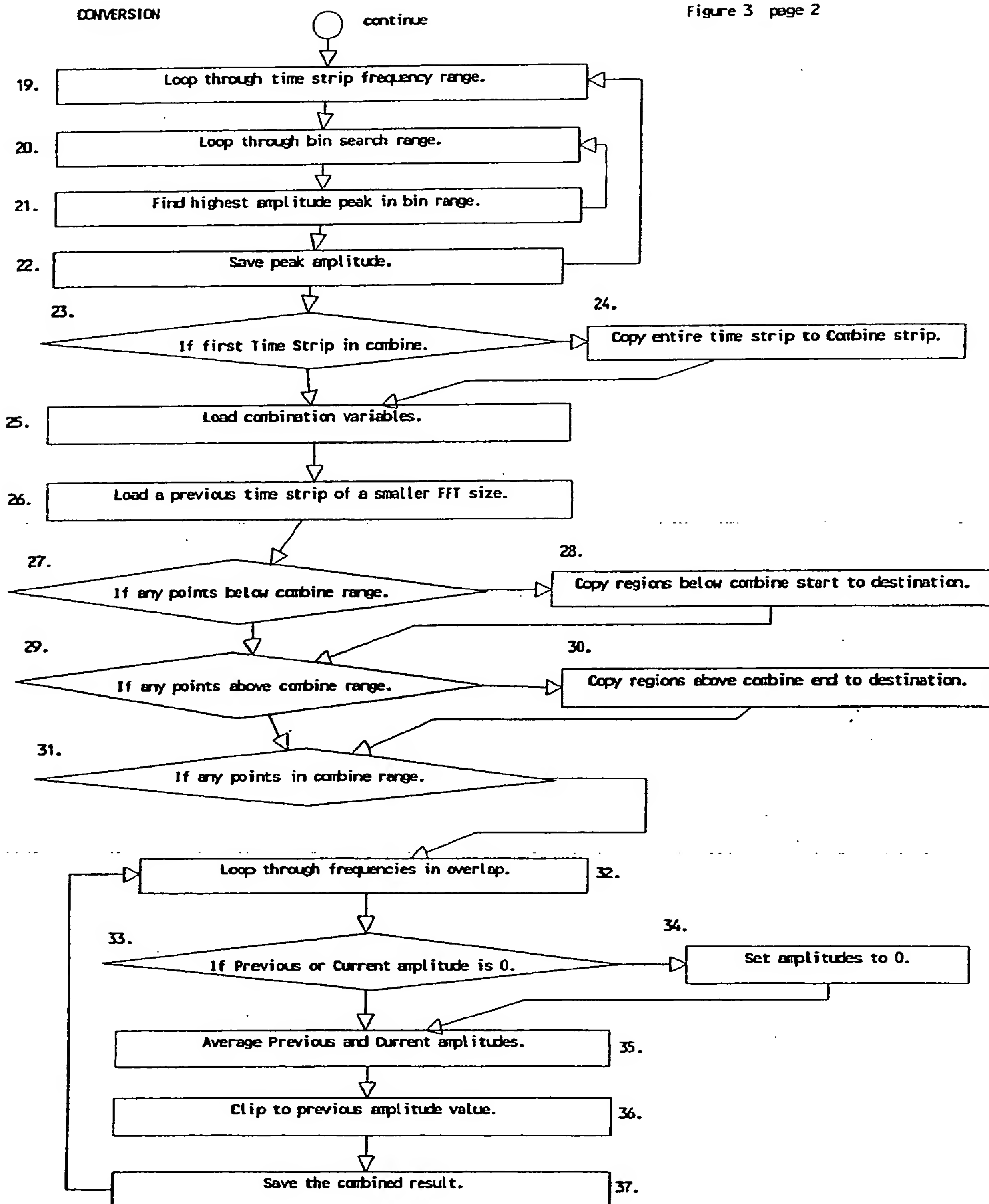
CONVERSION (Generate one time strip of a Spectral File)

Figure 3 page 1



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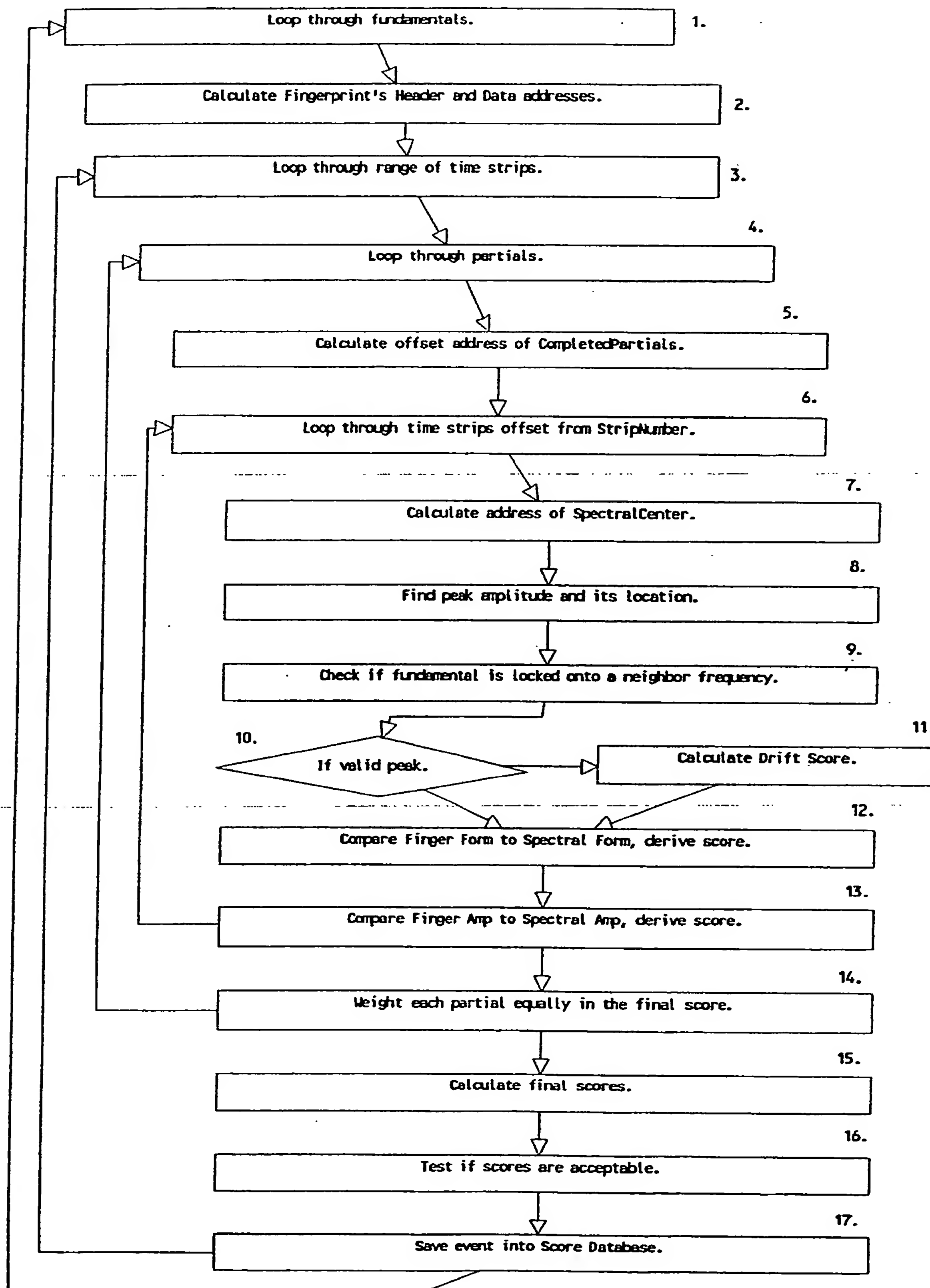
Figure 3 page 2



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COMPARISON (Initial database generation.)

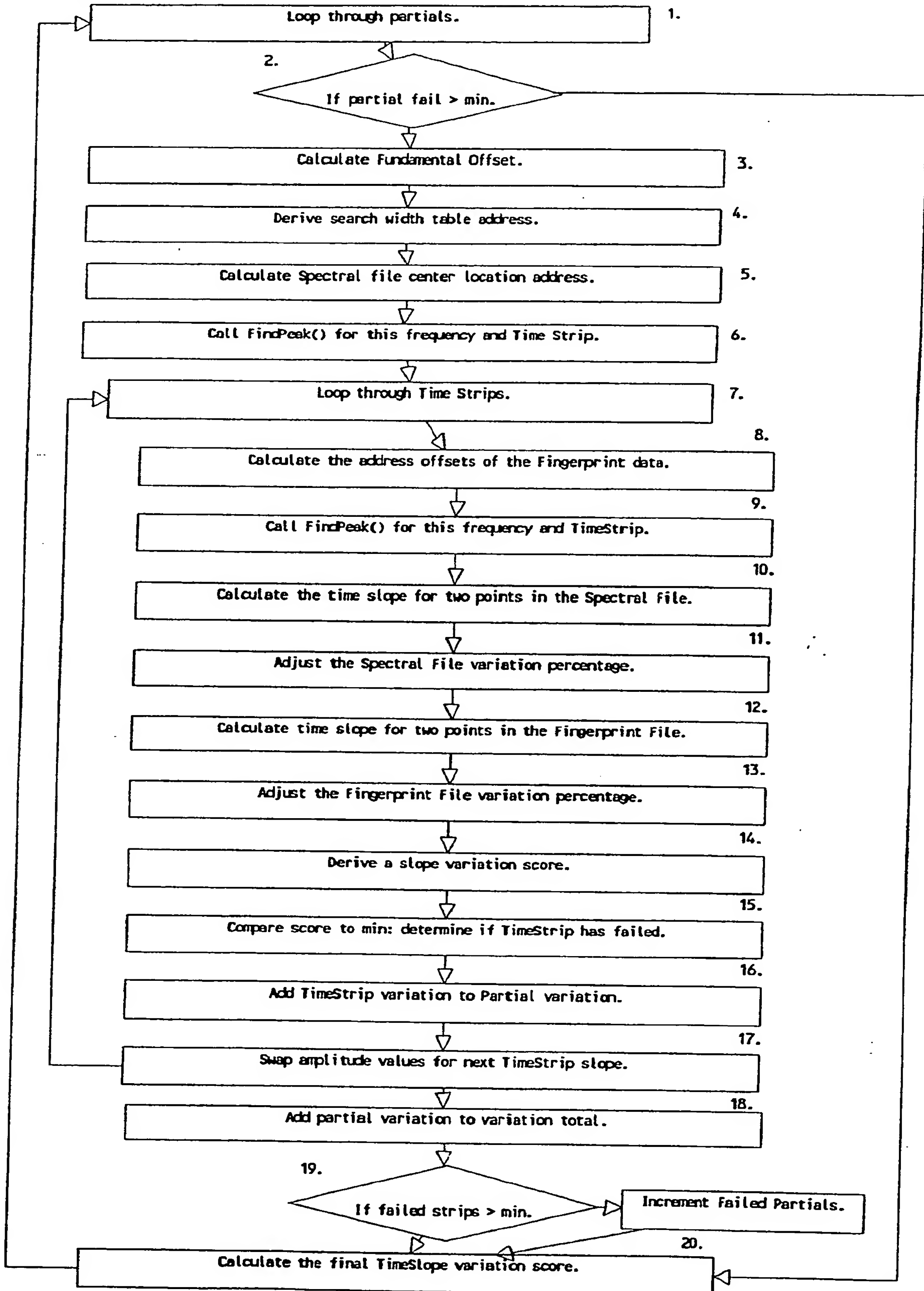
Figure 4.



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COMPARISON (Time slope compare)

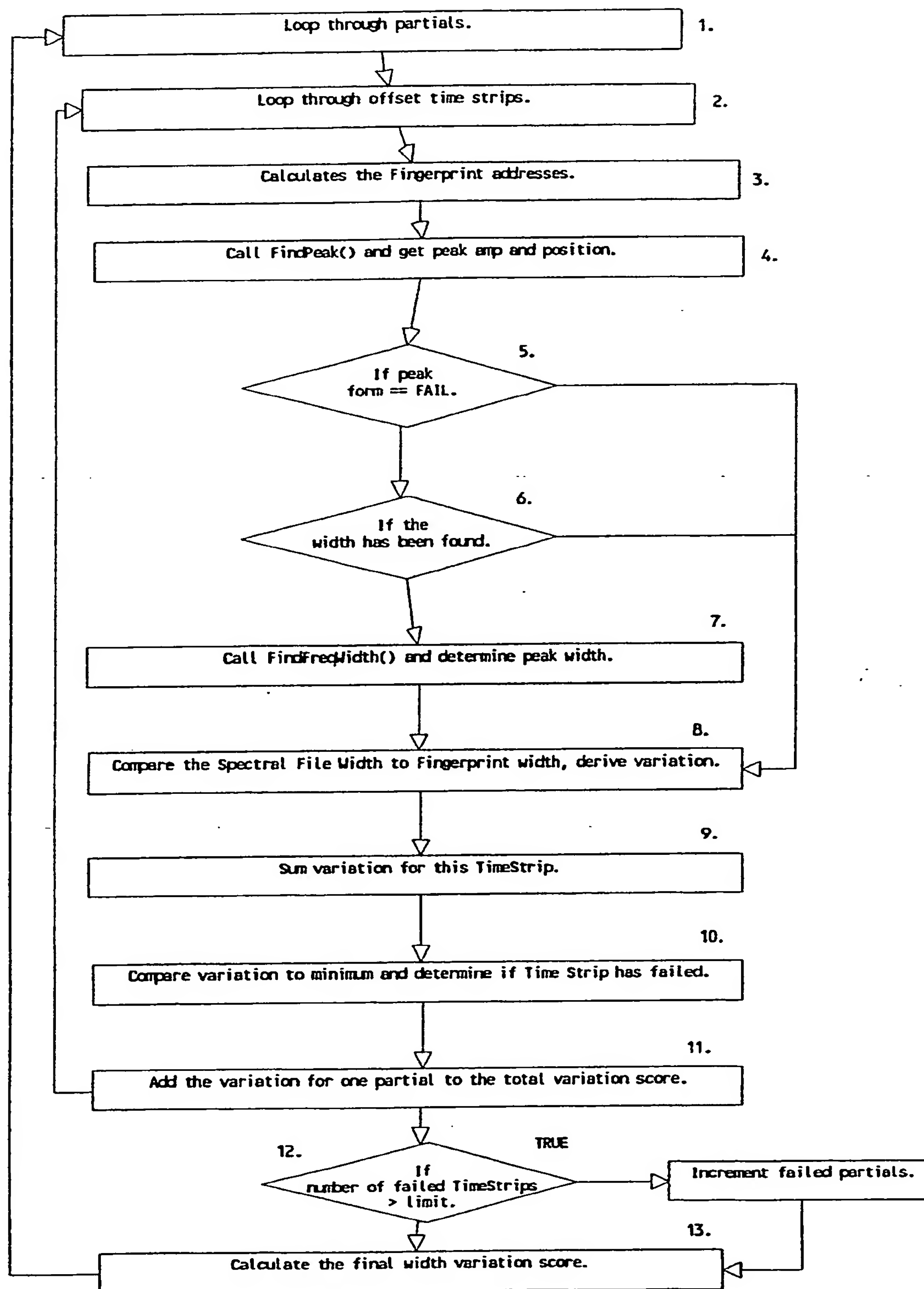
Figure 5.



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COMPARISON (Frequency distribution width compare)

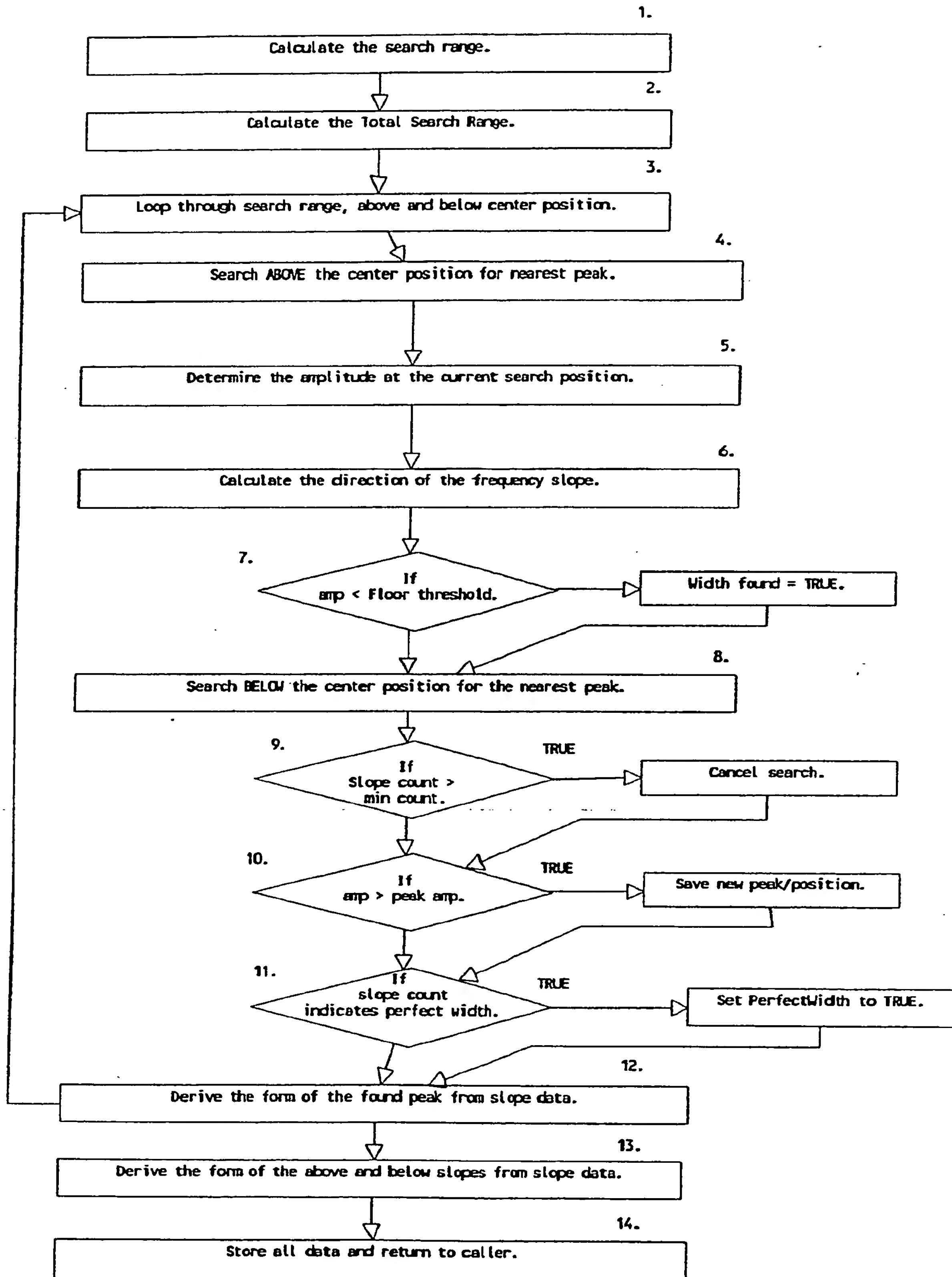
Figure 6.



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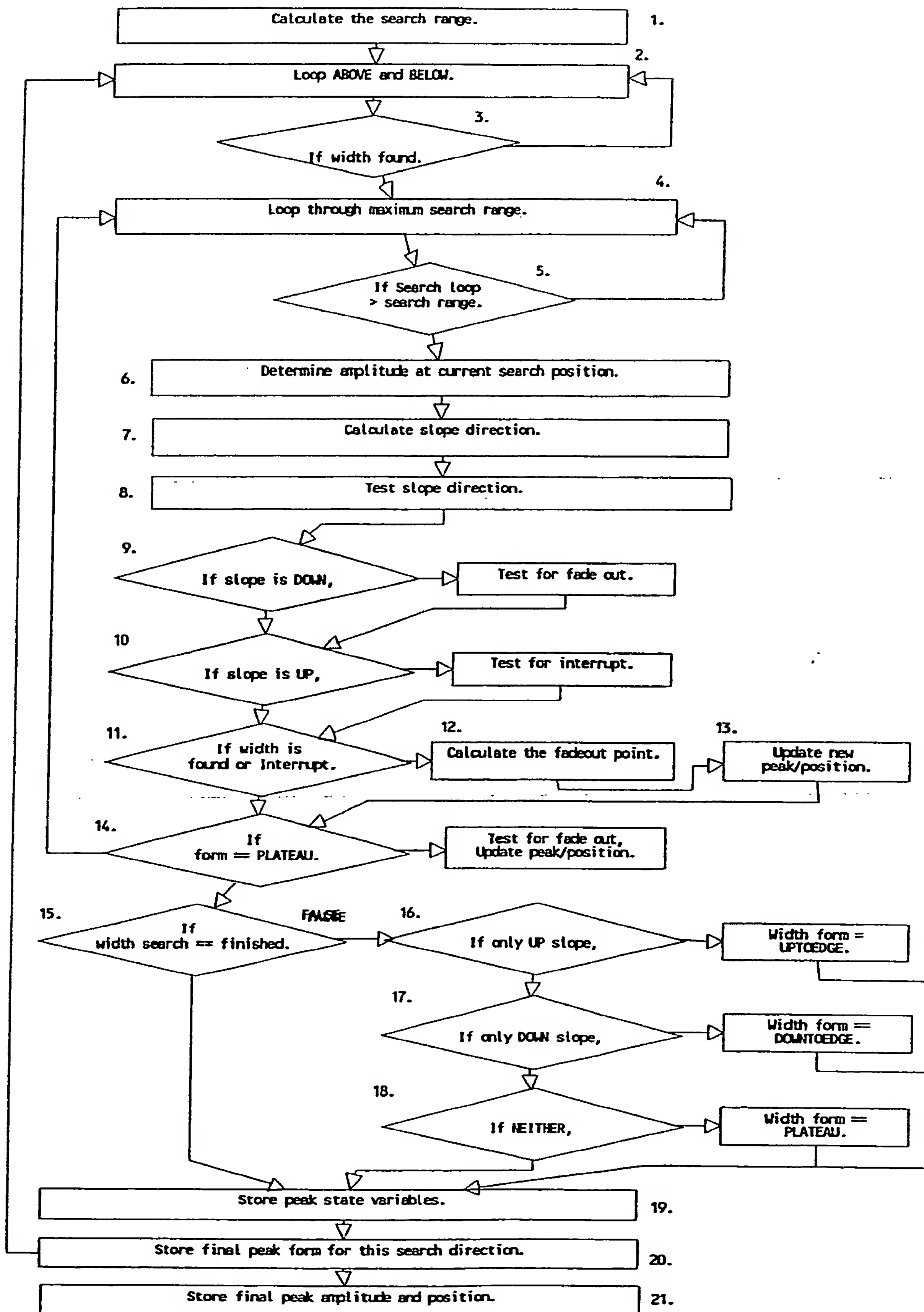
COMPARISON (Find peak)

Figure 7.



COMPARISON (Find frequency distribution width)

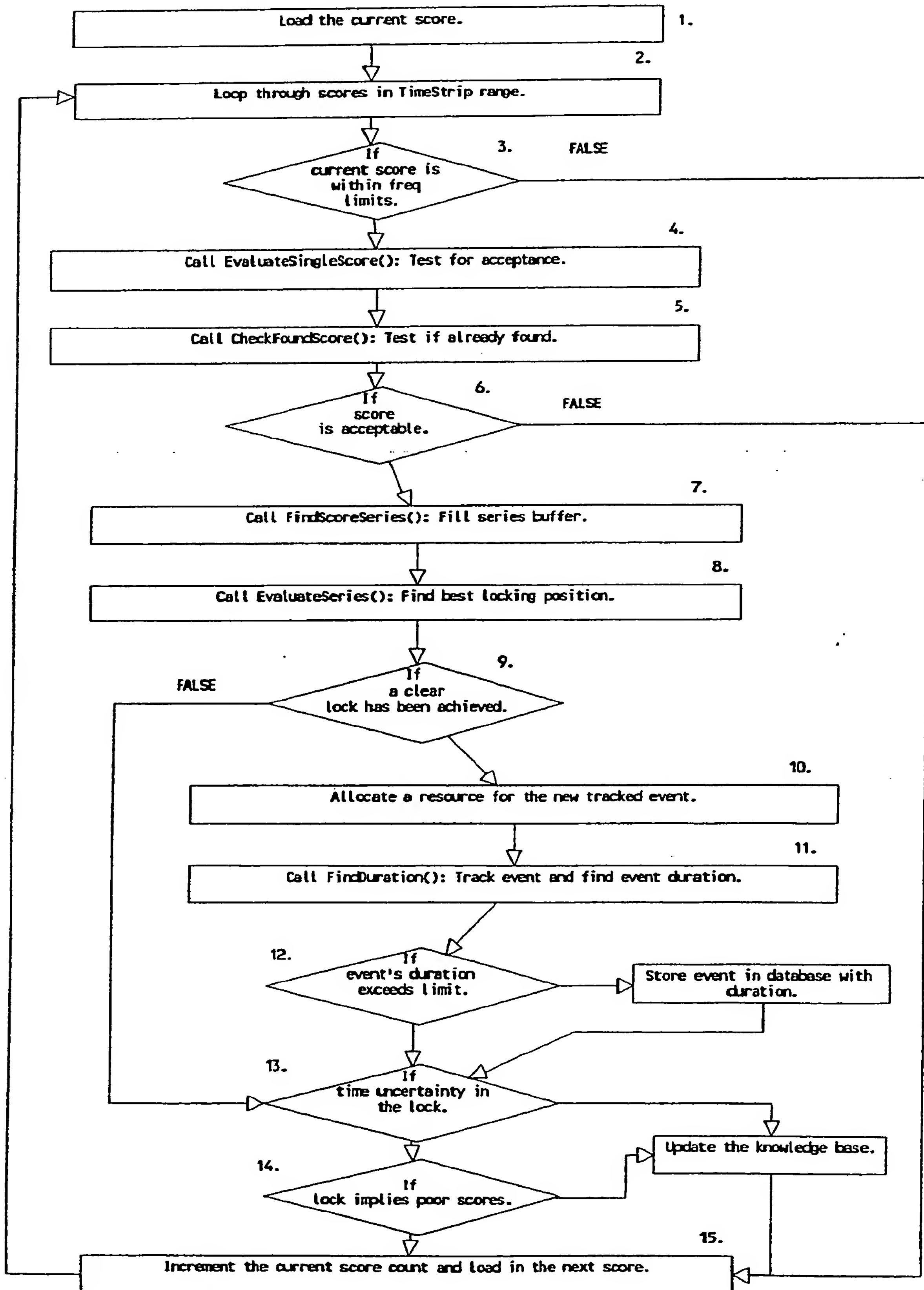
Figure 8.



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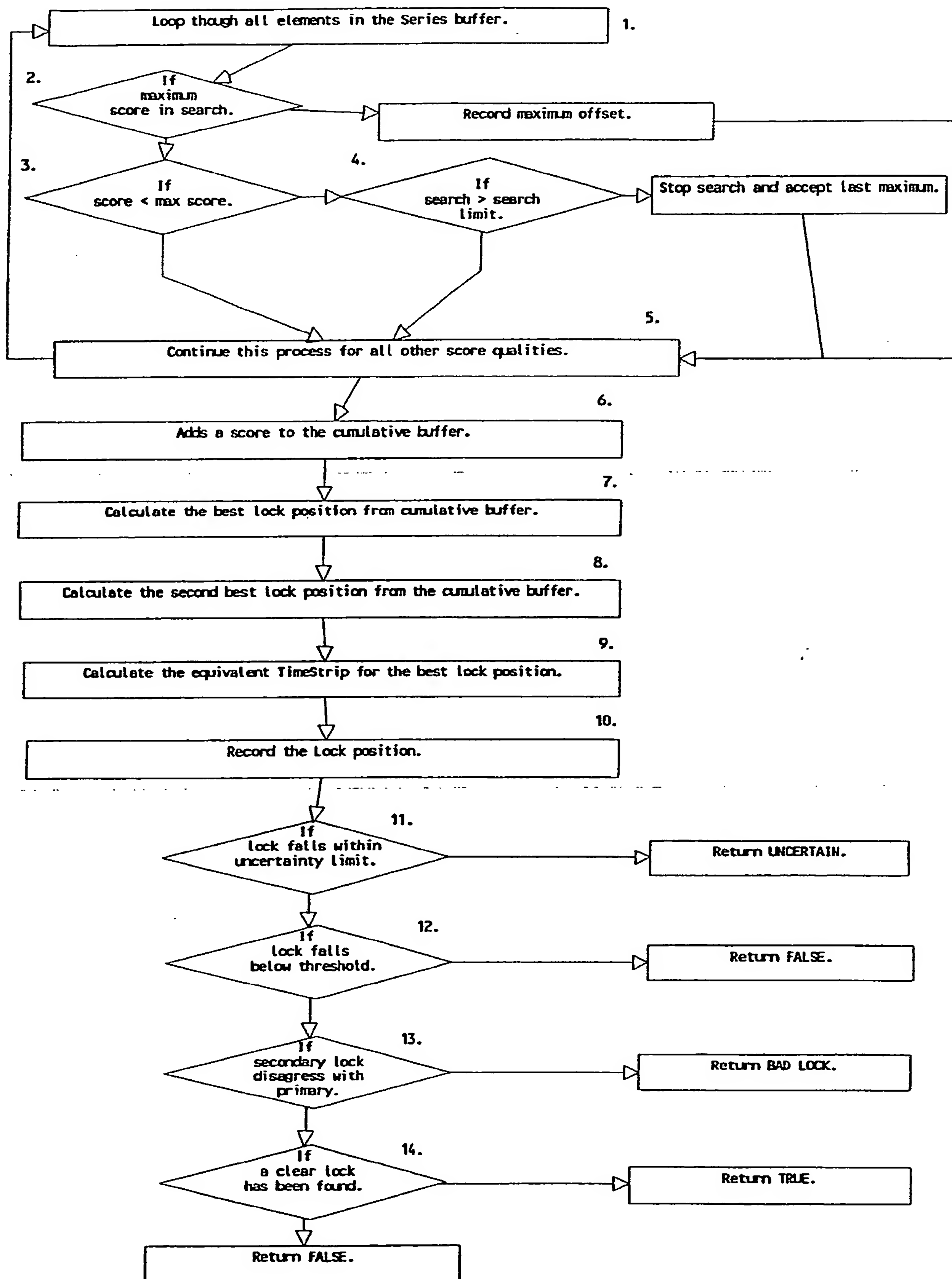
INTERPRETATION (Control the interpretation of scores)

Figure 9.



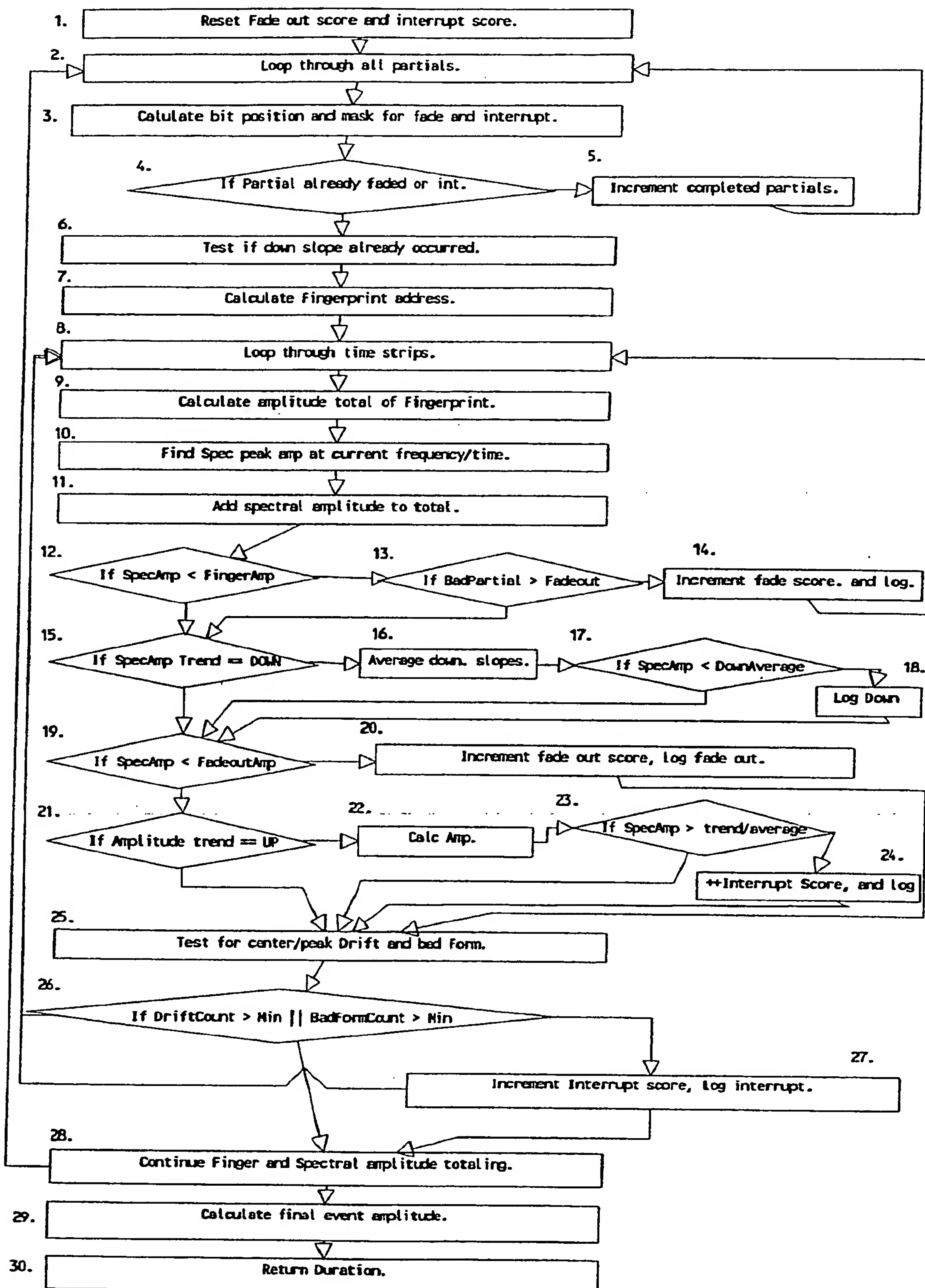
INTERPRETATION (Evaluate a series of scores)

Figure 10.



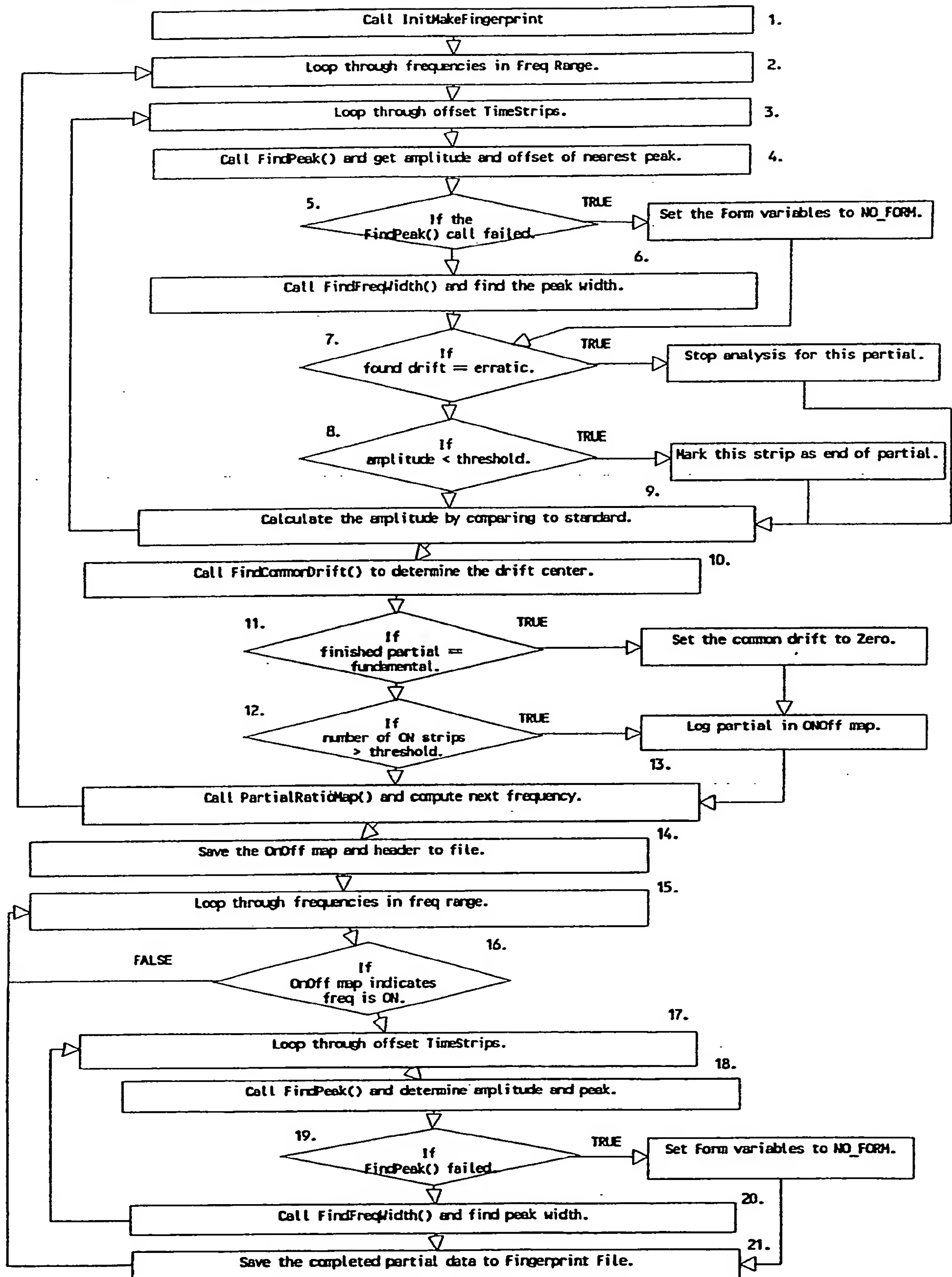
INTERPRETATION (Find the duration of an event)

Figure 11.



FINGERPRINT (Make Fingerprint)

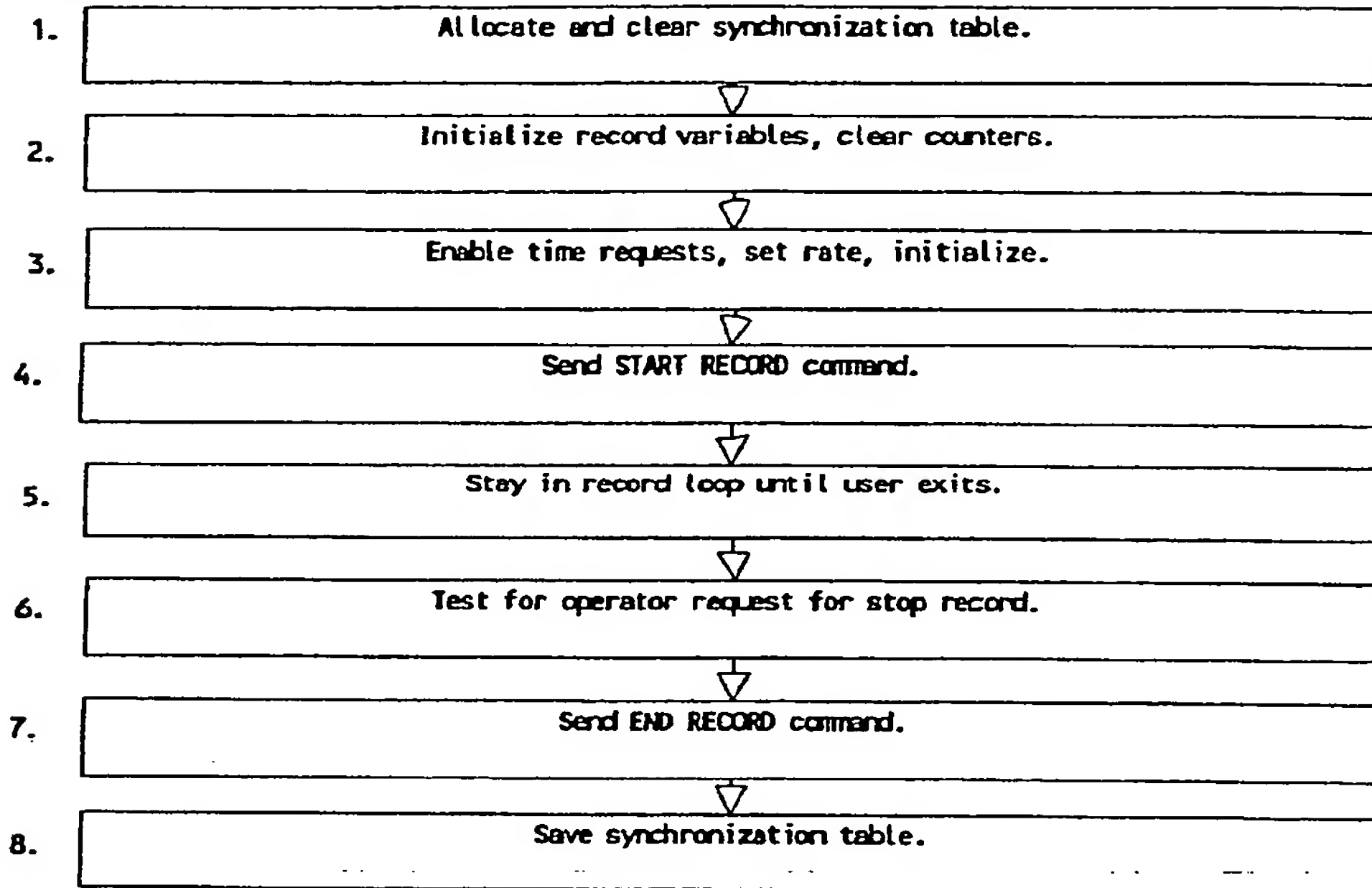
Figure 12.



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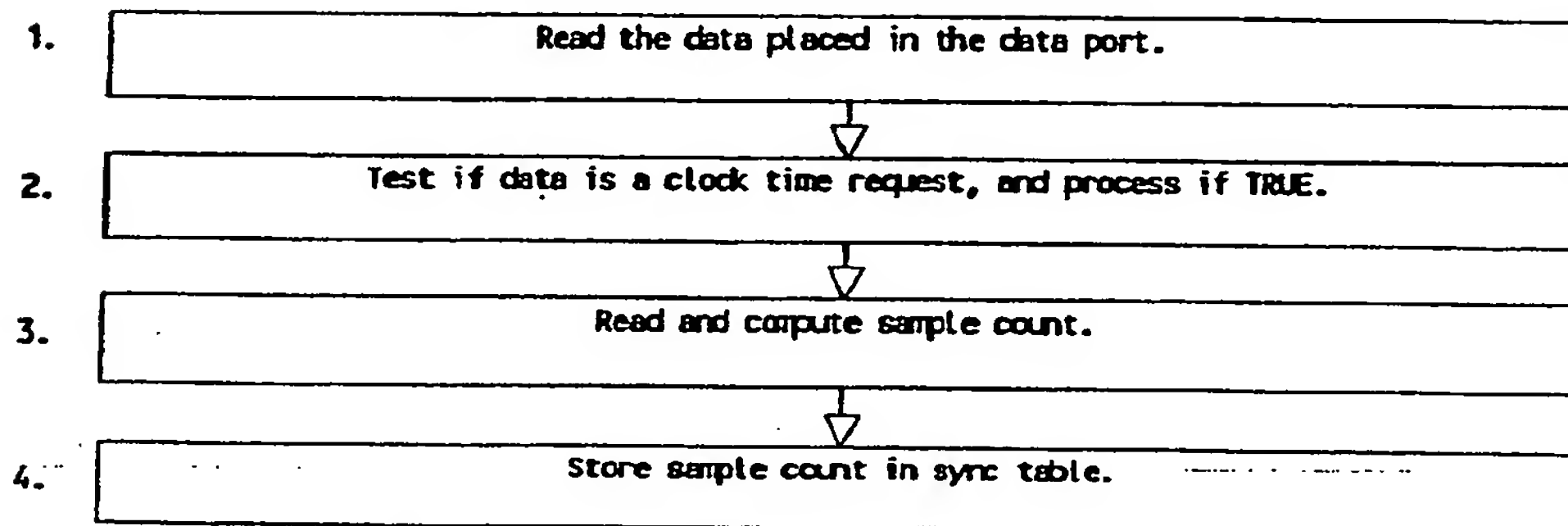
SYNCHRONIZATION (Record file, generate sync table)

Figure 13A



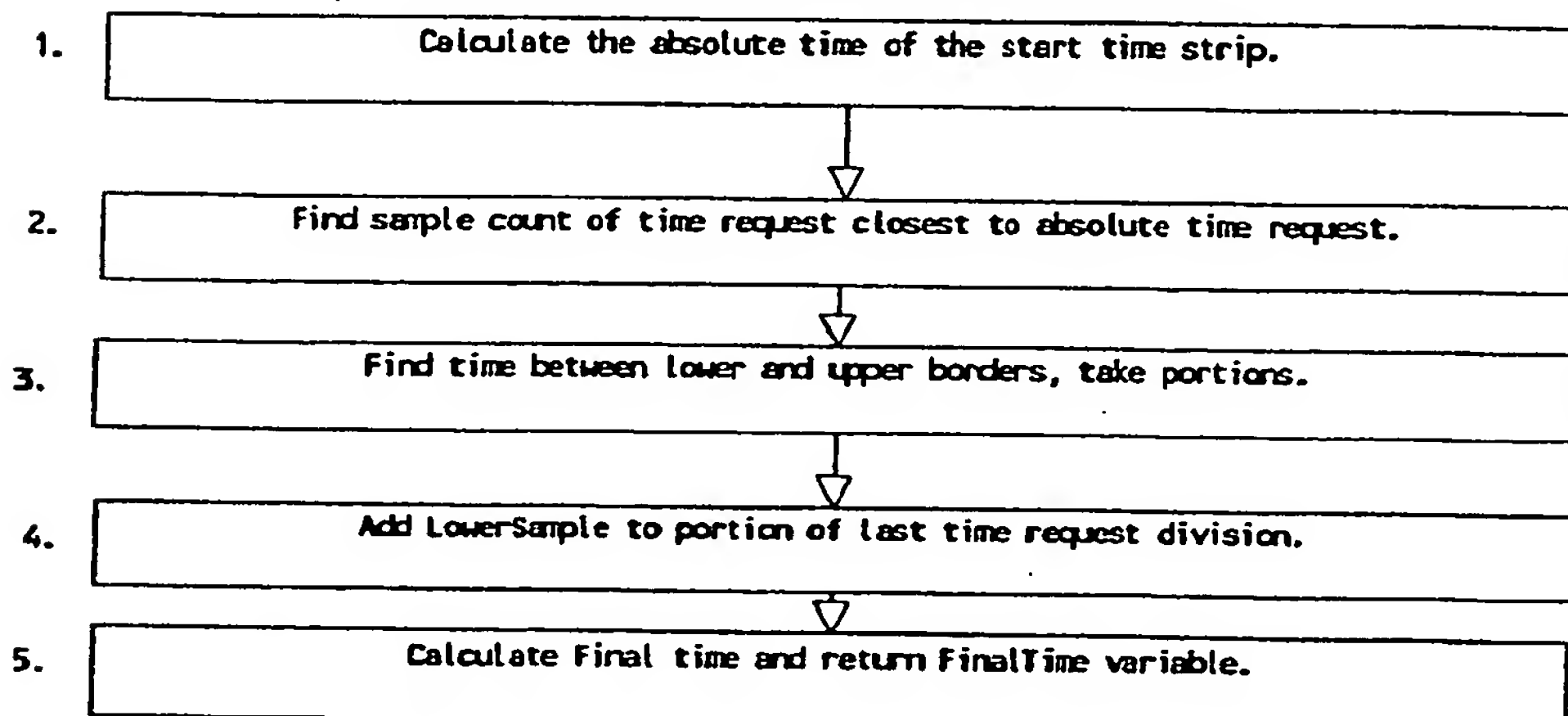
SYNCHRONIZATION (Event time request processing)

Figure 13B



SYNCHRONIZATION (Calculate synchronized time from sync table)

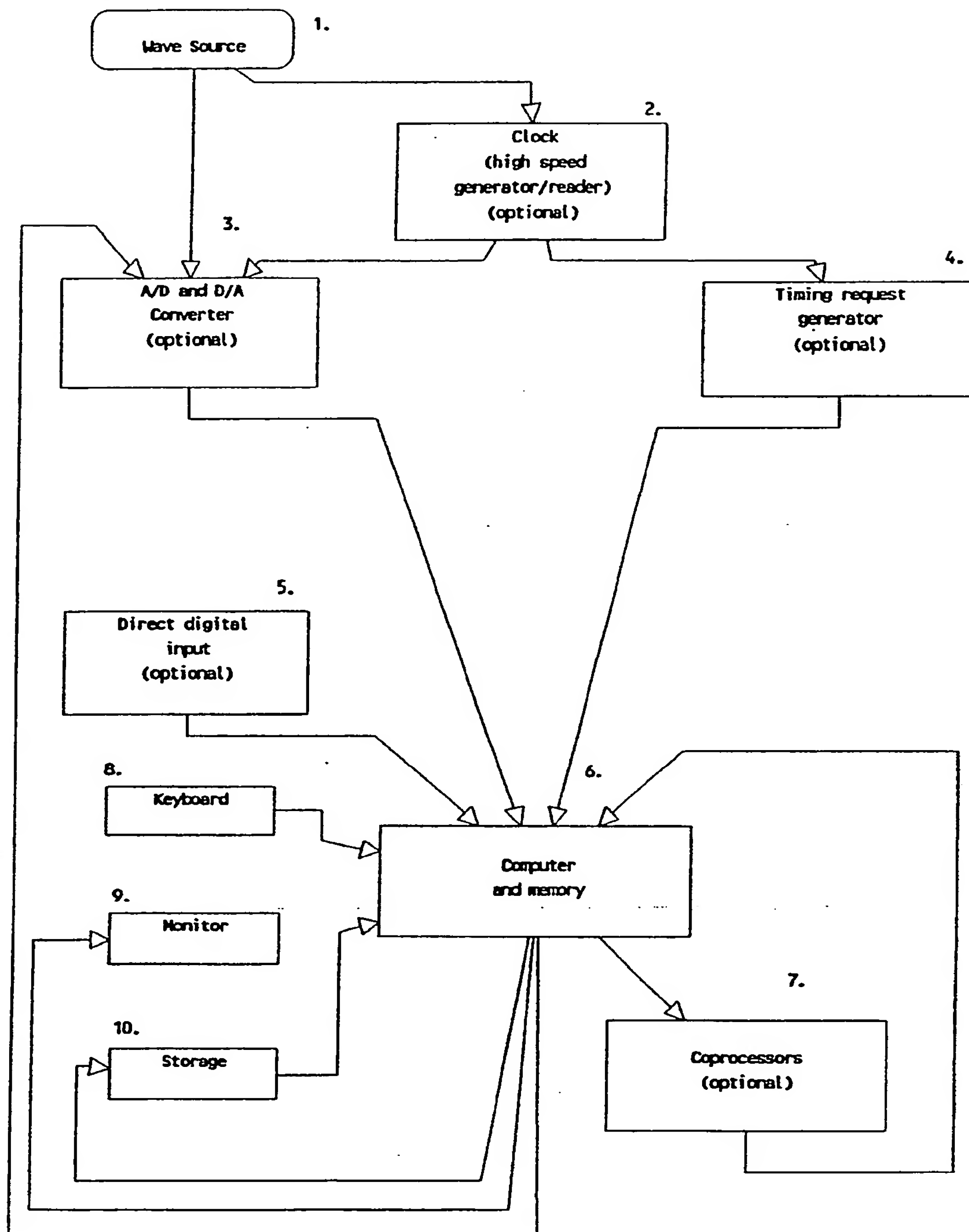
Figure 13C



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Apparatus Overview

Figure 14.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US91/04340

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) * According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC US, CL.: 364/487; 381/41; 84/616 IPC(5): G01R 23/00; G10L 5/00; G10L 7/00																										
II. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum Documentation Searched 7 <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Classification System</th> <th>Classification Symbols</th> </tr> <tr> <td>U.S. CL.</td> <td>364/487; 381/41-43, 45, 48-50; 382/16, 43; 84/601, 608, 615, 616</td> </tr> </table> Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched 8			Classification System	Classification Symbols	U.S. CL.	364/487; 381/41-43, 45, 48-50; 382/16, 43; 84/601, 608, 615, 616																				
Classification System	Classification Symbols																									
U.S. CL.	364/487; 381/41-43, 45, 48-50; 382/16, 43; 84/601, 608, 615, 616																									
APS: "(wave# or waveform#) (7A) ANALY? AND SPECTR? AND CHARACTERISTICS# AND (FINGERPRINT# OR SIGNATURE#) AND LEARN### AND DATABASE#"																										
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT 9 <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of Document, 11 with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 12</th> <th>Relevant to Claim No. 13</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US, A, 4,843,562 (KENYON et al.) 27 June 1989 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US, A, 4,739,398 (THOMAS et al.) 19 April 1988 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US, A, 4,633,748 (TAKASHIMA et al.) 6 January 1987 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>MOORER, J.A. "On Segmentation and Analysis of Continuous Musical Sound by Digital Computer" Center for Computer Research in Music Stanford University Report No. STAN-M-3 May 1975</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A, P</td> <td>US, A, 5,023,912 (SEGAWA) 11 June 1991 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US, A, 4,905,285 (ALLEN et al.) 27 February 1990 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US, A, 4,873,647 (BANKI et al.) 10 OCTOBER 1989 see entire document</td> <td>1-24 AND 26-47</td> </tr> </table>			Category *	Citation of Document, 11 with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 12	Relevant to Claim No. 13	Y	US, A, 4,843,562 (KENYON et al.) 27 June 1989 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47	Y	US, A, 4,739,398 (THOMAS et al.) 19 April 1988 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47	Y	US, A, 4,633,748 (TAKASHIMA et al.) 6 January 1987 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47	Y	MOORER, J.A. "On Segmentation and Analysis of Continuous Musical Sound by Digital Computer" Center for Computer Research in Music Stanford University Report No. STAN-M-3 May 1975		A, P	US, A, 5,023,912 (SEGAWA) 11 June 1991 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47	A	US, A, 4,905,285 (ALLEN et al.) 27 February 1990 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47	A	US, A, 4,873,647 (BANKI et al.) 10 OCTOBER 1989 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
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IV. CERTIFICATION <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search</td> <td>Date of Mailing of this International Search Report</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20 AUGUST 1991</td> <td>17 OCT 1991</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Searching Authority</td> <td>Signature of Authorized Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISA/US</td> <td>JOSEPH L. DIXON</td> </tr> </table>			Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	20 AUGUST 1991	17 OCT 1991	International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	ISA/US	JOSEPH L. DIXON																
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

A	US,A, 4,590,605 (HATAOKA et al.) 20 May 1986 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	US,A, 4,593,367 (SLACK et al.) 03 June 1986 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	Chowing, J. et al. "Intelligent Analysis of Composite Acoustic Signals" Department of Music, Stanford University Report No. STAN-M-36 (1986) see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	Jackson, L.B. "Digital Filters and Signal Processing" (ISBN 0-89838-174-6) Chapters 6 AND 7, 1986 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47

V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE :

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to subject matter ¹² not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out ¹³, specifically:

3. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they are dependent claims not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING :

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.

2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No
A	Schloss, W "On The Automatic Transcription of Percussive Music—From Acoustic Signal To High Level Analysis" Department of Music Stanford University, Report No. STAN-M-27 (1985) see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	CHAFE, C. et al. "Techniques For Note Identification in Polyphonic music", <u>CENTER FOR COMPUTER RESEARCH IN MUSIC AND ACOUSTICS</u> , 1985 see entire document.	1-24 AND 26-47
A	Kashima, K.L. "The Bounded-Q Frequency" Department of Music, Stanford University Report No. STAN-M-28, 1985 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	Jack, M.A. et al. "Waveform Detection and Classification with Saw Cepstrum Analysis" <u>IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems</u> , Volume AES-13, November 1987 see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47
A	Rabiner, L. et al. "Theory and Application of Digital Signal Processing" (ISBN-0-13-914101-4) Chapter 6, pp. 356-434 (1975) see entire document	1-24 AND 26-47